コミック

新田次郎原作

武田信玄

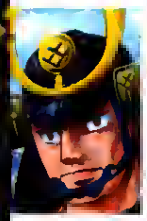
①骨肉の巻

横山光輝

歴史コミック48

次郎 新田

武田信玄 1



横山光輝

信　虎

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新田次郎 武田信玄 I

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信　虎

武田信玄 ①骨肉の巻

殺さねば殺される。父が子を、子が父を倒し、家臣が主君を滅す。百年の乱世の中、剣と馬によって甲斐の豪族を斬り従えた武田信虎。その嫡男・後世〝無敵の智将〟といわれた武田信玄晴信の戦国長編絵巻!!

上洛を窺う上杉・北条・今川を四面にした古府中(甲府)の躑躅が崎館――武田家、危しと見た信虎の重臣・板垣信方と甘利虎泰の補佐により、乱行の父を追放する信玄は、一方でおこや里見に心を奪われる若き獅子でもあった……

晴信(信玄)花押

武田信玄

TAKEDA SHINGEN

(1)

OF FLESH AND BONE

BY YOKOYAMA MITSUTERU

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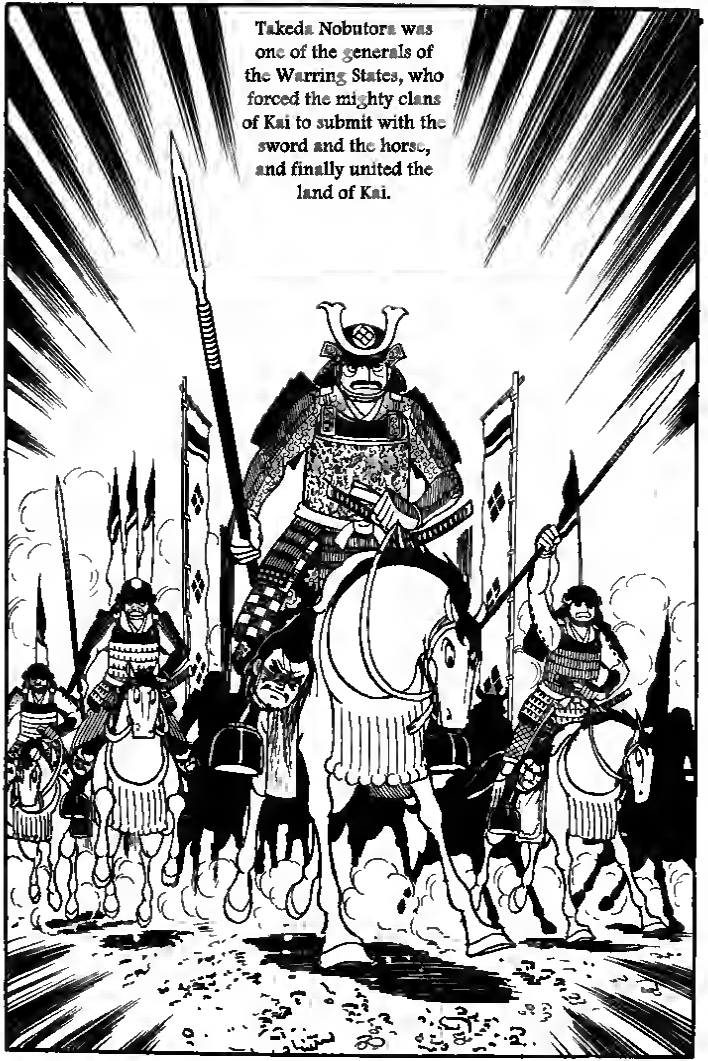
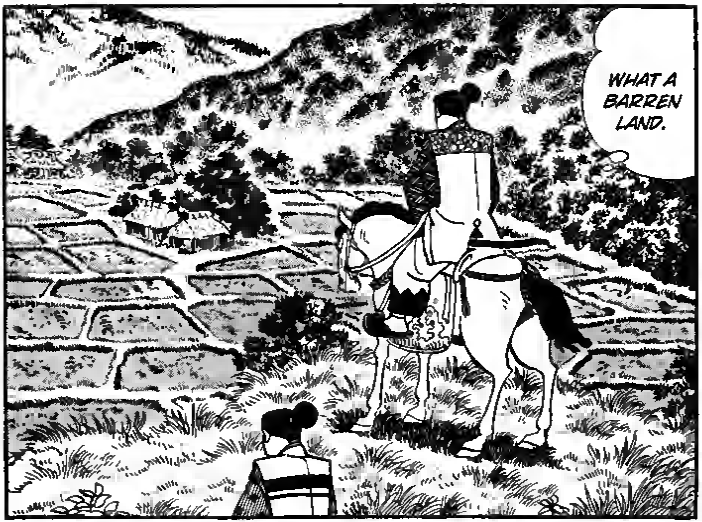
Kill or be killed. That was
the law of the Warring States.
Father defeated son, son
defeated father, and retainers
destroyed their lords.
This chaotic era had lasted
for a hundred years.


Takeda Nobutora was one of the generals of the Warring States, who forced the mighty clans of Kai to submit with the sword and the horse, and finally united the land of Kai.

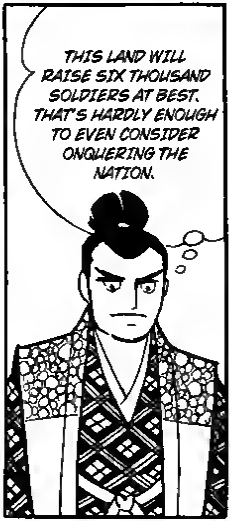
CHAPTER 1: DEMON

ドッド

WHOA!
WHOA!


WHAT A BARREN LAND.

YES, MY LORD?
BY THE WAY, JINZA-BURO...


THIS LAND WILL RAISE SIX THOUSAND SOLDIERS AT BEST. THAT'S HARDLY ENOUGH TO EVEN CONSIDER ONQUERING THE NATION.

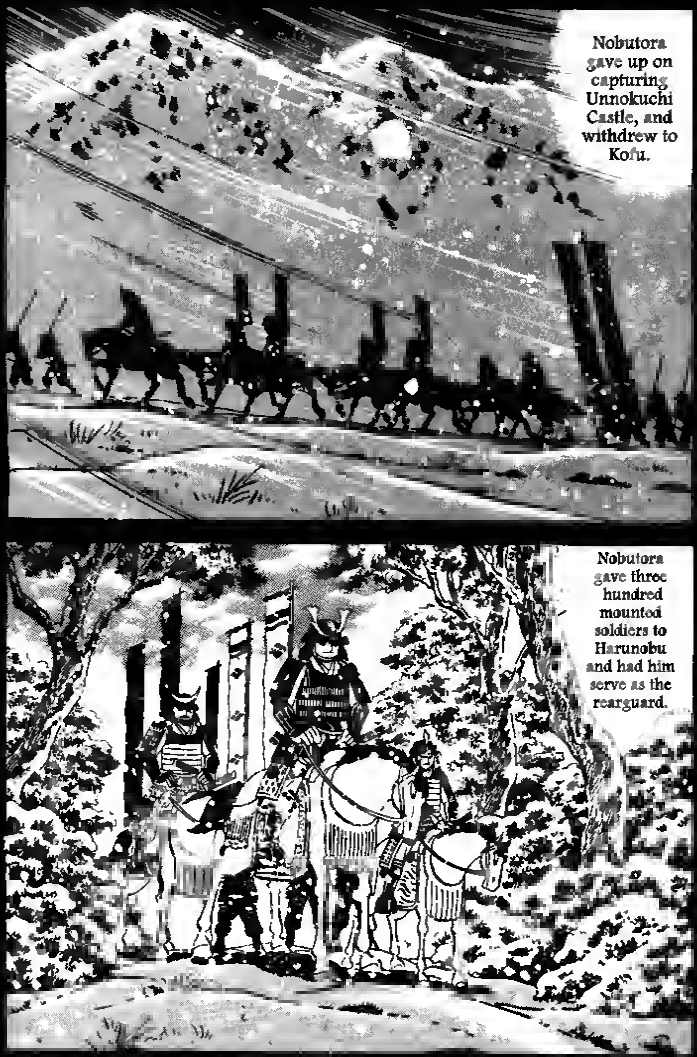
DO YOU THINK MY FATHER WANTS TO KILL ME?

I HAVE BEEN HEARING RUMORS.
WHY WOULD YOU ASK SUCH A THING?
THAT MY FATHER WANTS TO HAVE MY BROTHER NOBUSHIGE INHERIT THE TAKEDA CLAN, AND THAT I AM JUST A RUNT IN THE WAY...
CAN YOU REALLY PROVE THAT IT IS JUST A RUMOR?
THAT IS JUST A TRIFLING RUMOR.
MY FATHER DOES NOT PERMIT ME TO JOIN HIS WAR COUNCIL, AND WHENEVER A RETAINER REMONSTRATES HIM FOR IT, HE SLAYS THAT RETAINER ON THE SPOT.

SEVERAL RETAINERS ARE DEAD FOR THAT REASON.

Harunobu's (Shingen's) relation with his father Nobutora turned strange on Harunobu's first battle, when he was sixteen

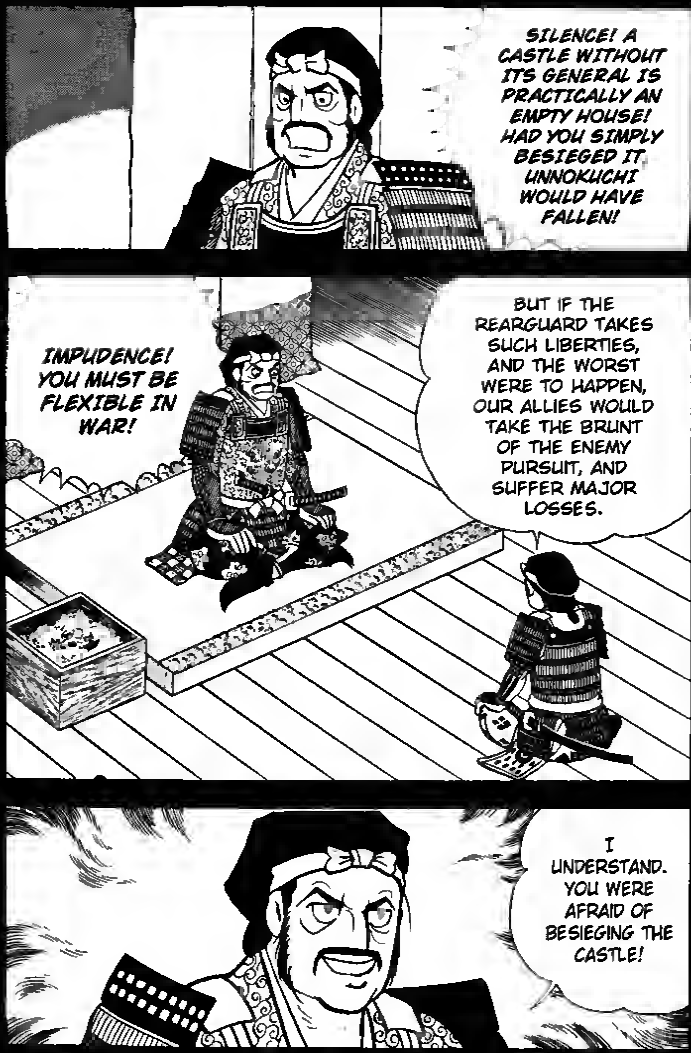
In November, Tenbun year 5 (1536), Harunobu, with his father Nobutora, took eight thousand soldiers and assaulted Unnokuchi Castle of Saku District.
But Unnokuchi Castle resisted falling. Before long, snow began to fall.


Nobutora gave up on capturing Unnokuchi Castle, and withdrew to Kofu.
Nobutora gave three hundred mounted soldiers to Harunobu and had him serve as the rearguard.

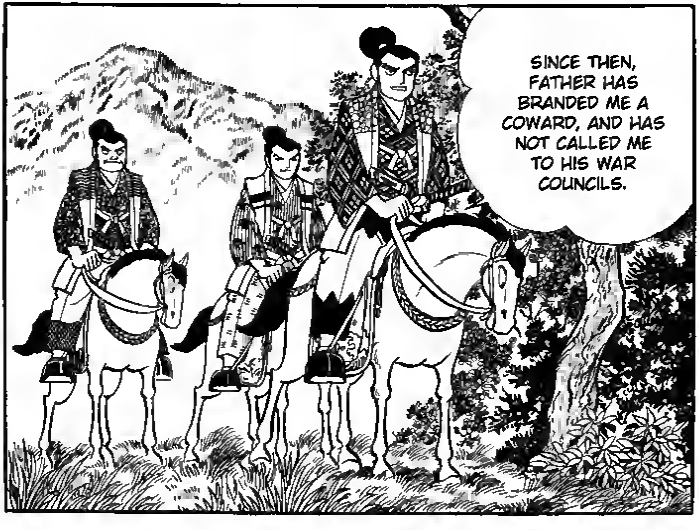
When he saw this, the general of Unnokuchi Castle, Hiraga Genshin, began his pursuit

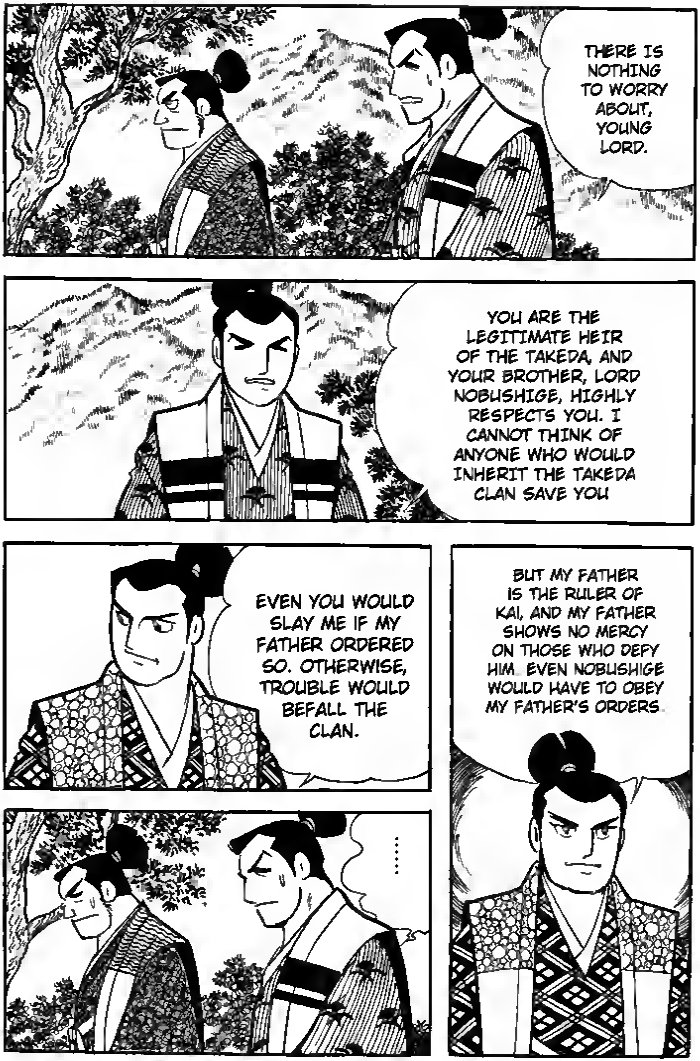
But to the contrary, Harunobu successfully slew the enemy general, Hiraga Genshun.

BUT WE ONLY HAD THREE HUNDRED SOLDIERS... AND I BELIEVE THE DUTY OF THE REARGUARD IS TO STOP THE ENEMY'S PURSUIT.
WHAT? YOU SLEW THE ENEMY GENERAL BUT DID NOT BESIEGE UNNOKUCHI CASTLE?

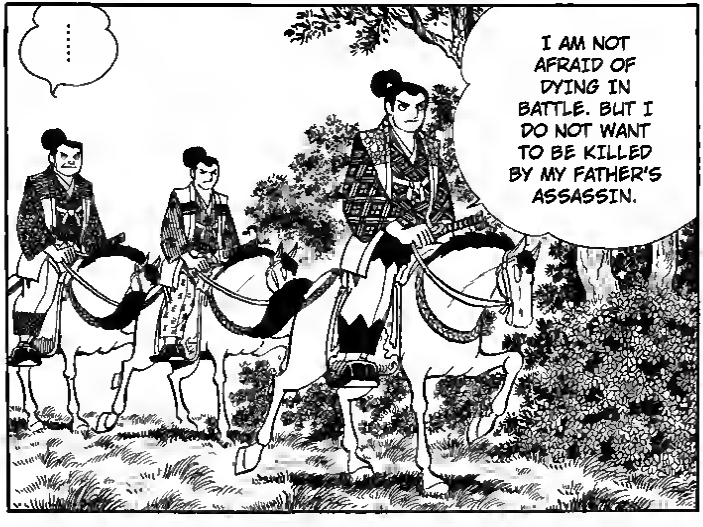

SILENCE! A CASTLE WITHOUT ITS GENERAL IS PRACTICALLY AN EMPTY HOUSE! HAD YOU SIMPLY BESIEGED IT, UNNOKUCHI WOULD HAVE FALLEN!
IMPUDENCE! YOU MUST BE FLEXIBLE IN WAR!
BUT IF THE REARGUARD TAKES SUCH LIBERTIES, AND THE WORST WERE TO HAPPEN, OUR ALLIES WOULD TAKE THE BRUNT OF THE ENEMY PURSUIT, AND SUFFER MAJOR LOSSES.
I UNDERSTAND. YOU WERE AFRAID OF BESIEGING THE CASTLE!

ENOUGH! I WILL NOT HEAR YOUR EXCUSES!
NO! I SIMPLY DESIRED FOR THE TAKEDA ARMY TO SAFELY REACH KOFU...


SINCE THEN, FATHER HAS BRANDED ME A COWARD, AND HAS NOT CALLED ME TO HIS WAR COUNCILS.


THERE IS NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, YOUNG LORD.
YOU ARE THE LEGITIMATE HEIR OF THE TAKEDA, AND YOUR BROTHER, LORD NOBUSHIGE, HIGHLY RESPECTS YOU. I CANNOT THINK OF ANYONE WHO WOULD INHERIT THE TAKEDA CLAN SAVE YOU
EVEN YOU WOULD SLAY ME IF MY FATHER ORDERED SO. OTHERWISE, TROUBLE WOULD BEFALL THE CLAN.
BUT MY FATHER IS THE RULER OF KAI, AND MY FATHER SHOWS NO MERCY ON THOSE WHO DEFY HIM. EVEN NOBUSHIGE WOULD HAVE TO OBEY MY FATHER'S ORDERS.
.....

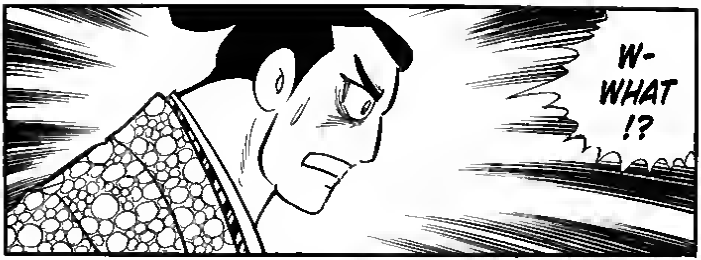
OR SHOULD I FLEE TO A FOREIGN PROVINCE LIKE THE MAGISTRATES THAT FLED FIVE YEARS AGO, FED UP WITH MY FATHER?


.....
I AM NOT AFRAID OF DYING IN BATTLE. BUT I DO NOT WANT TO BE KILLED BY MY FATHER'S ASSASSIN.

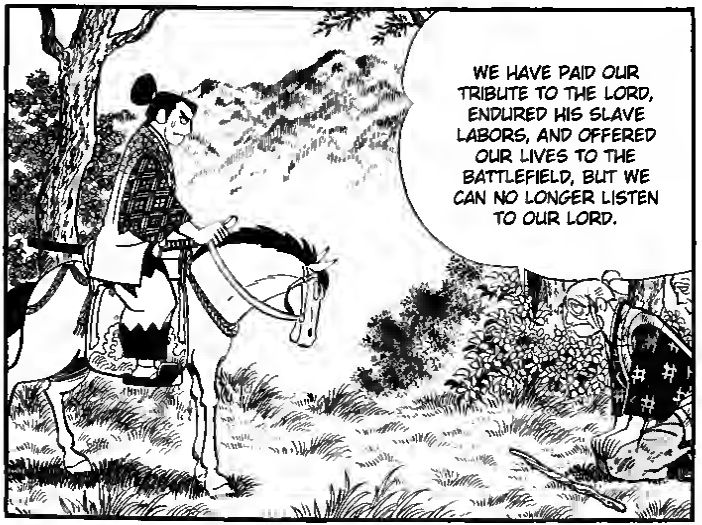
HUH?

TAKE ONE STEP CLOSER AND WE WILL SHOW YOU NO QUARTER!
WHO GOES THERE?
WE HAVE SOMETHING TO ASK OF YOU, LORD HARUNOBU.

LORD HARUNOBU, YOU HAVE TAKEN IN A WIFE FROM KYOTO AND ARE ALREADY HAVING A CHILD WITH HER, SO I BELIEVE YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO IMAGINE THIS.
WHAT IS IT...?
IF A DEMON CAME UP, GORED THROUGH YOUR WIFE'S BELLY, AND GOUGED OUT YOUR UNBORN CHILD, WHAT WOULD YOU DO? I IMAGINE YOU WOULD SLAY THAT DEMON WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT.
LORD HARUNOBU, THAT DEMON HAS POSSESSED THE LORD OF THIS DOMAIN. BECAUSE THE DEMON HAS POSSESSED LORD NOBUTORA, LORD NOBUTORA IS TEARING THROUGH PREGNANT WOMEN'S BELLIES AND RIPPING OUT THEIR UNBORN CHILDREN.


W-
WHAT
!?

AND NOT JUST ONE OR TWO. THREE UNBORN CHILDREN HAVE ALREADY LOST THEIR LIVES TO THE DEMON.


WE HAVE PAID OUR TRIBUTE TO THE LORD, ENDURED HIS SLAVE LABORS, AND OFFERED OUR LIVES TO THE BATTLEFIELD, BUT WE CAN NO LONGER LISTEN TO OUR LORD.

I ASK THAT YOU DRIVE THIS DEMON OUT OF THIS PROVINCE. BUT DO NOT DRIVE OUT LORD NOBUTORA, JUST DRIVE OUT THE DEMON THAT HAS POSSESSED HIM.
WE HUMBLY BEG OF YOU.
This was so shocking that Harunobu could not speak.

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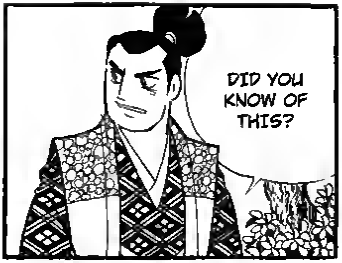
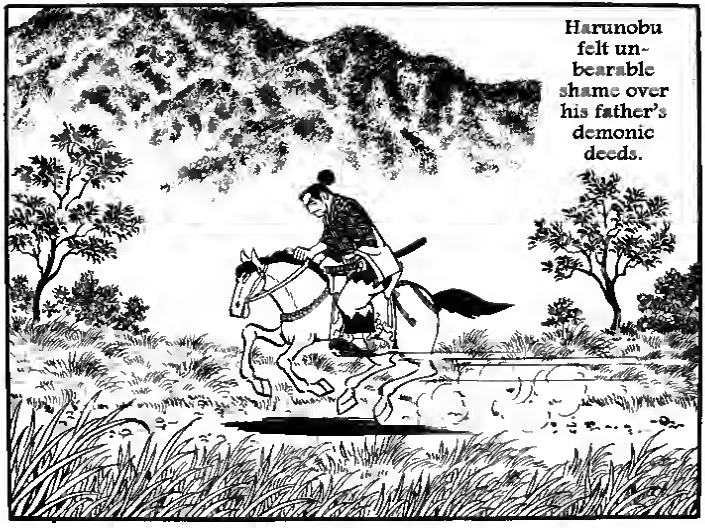
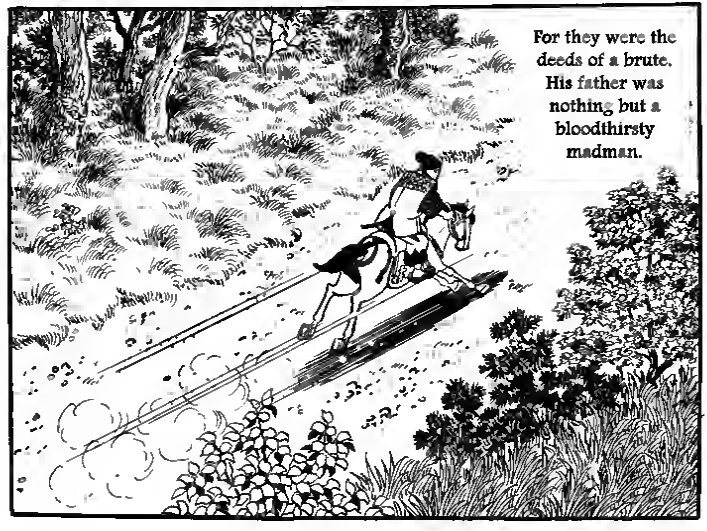

DID YOU KNOW OF THIS?

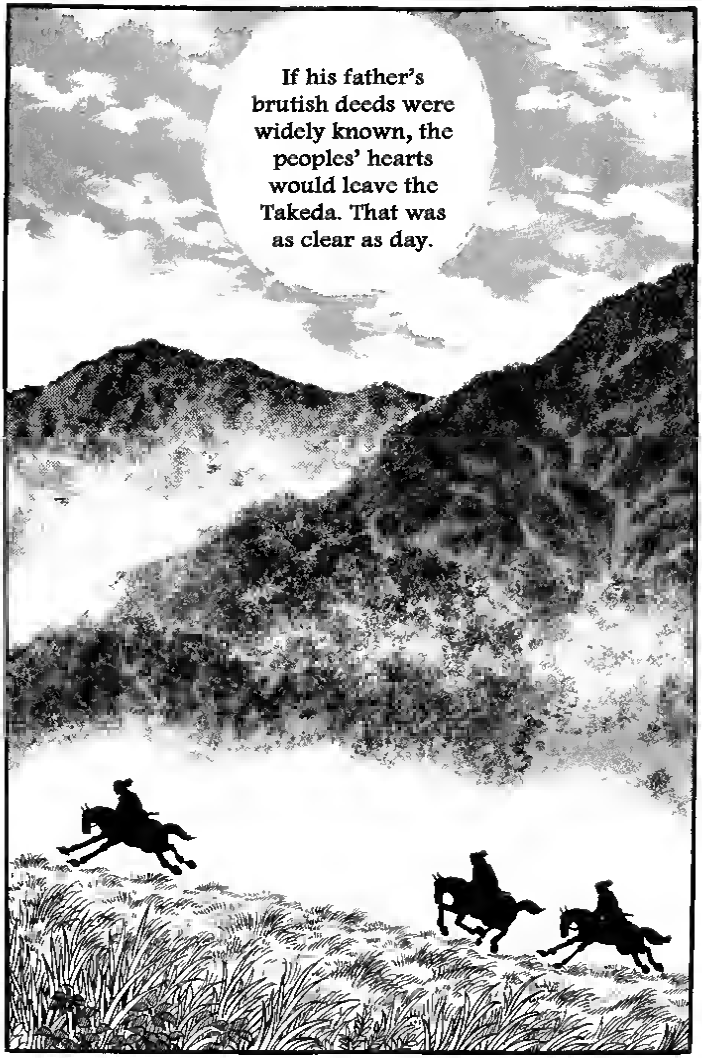
SO THEY KNEW...

YOUNG LORD!

AHH!


Harunobu felt unbearable shame over his father's demonic deeds.


For they were the deeds of a brute. His father was nothing but a bloodthirsty madman.


If his father's brutish deeds were widely known, the peoples' hearts would leave the Takeda. That was as clear as day.

TAKEDA SHINGEN

武田信玄

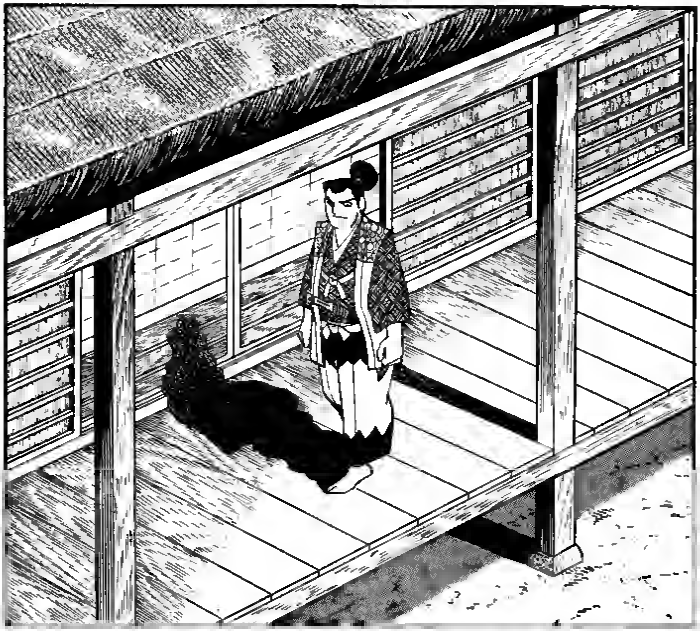
TAKEDA SHINGEN

PRESENTED BY
HOKUTO NO GUN
AND HAPPY SCANS

TRANSLATED BY SYSTEMATICCHAOS
PROOFREADING BY ANGELOFCHAOTIX
CLEANED BY WRIGHT
TYPESETTING BY ANI
QC BY KAZUHIKO

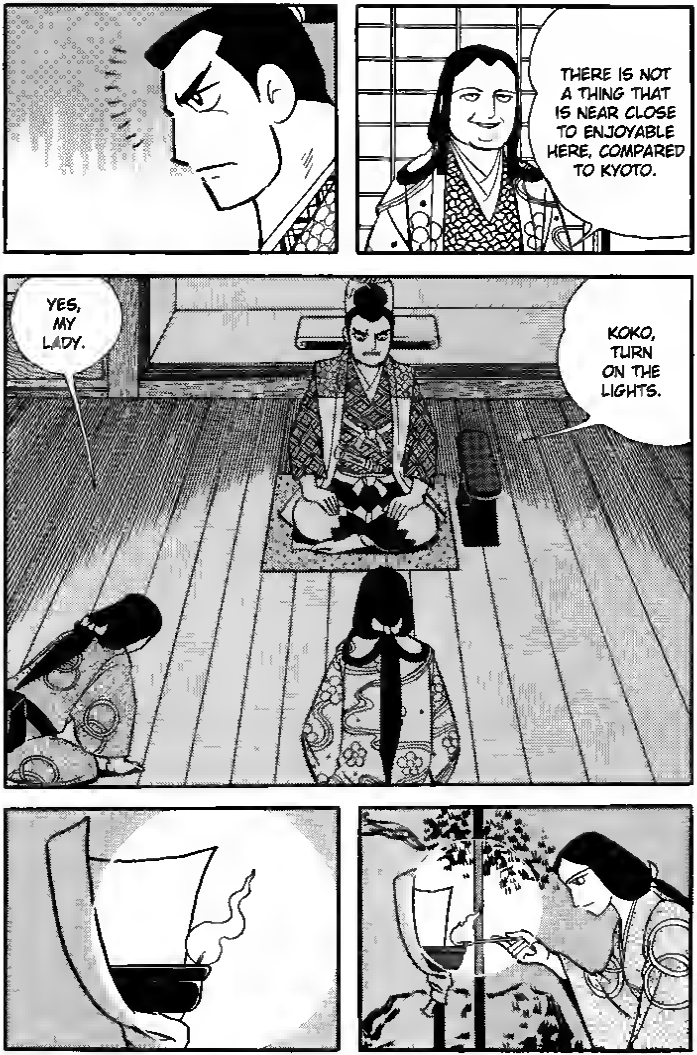
CHAPTER 1

CHAPTER 2: KOKO THE CONCUBINE



カッ

Harunobu's wife was the daughter of Sanjo Kinyori, Minister of the Left, and was three years older than Harunobu
WELCOME HOME.
IT'S DARK.
IT IS YOUR FACE THAT IS DARK. WHAT IS THE MATTER?
I JUST HAD A DREADFUL EXPERIENCE
HOHOHO! I HAVE SUCH EXPERIENCES EVERY DAY!

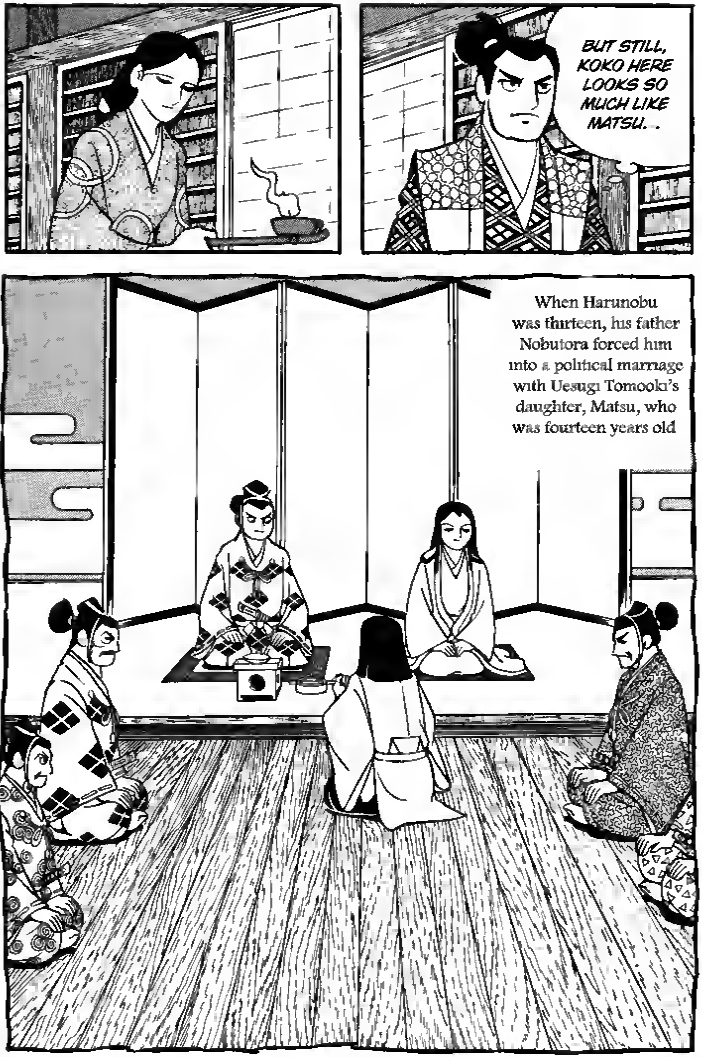

THERE IS NOT A THING THAT IS NEAR CLOSE TO ENJOYABLE HERE, COMPARED TO KYOTO.
KOKO, TURN ON THE LIGHTS.
YES, MY LADY.

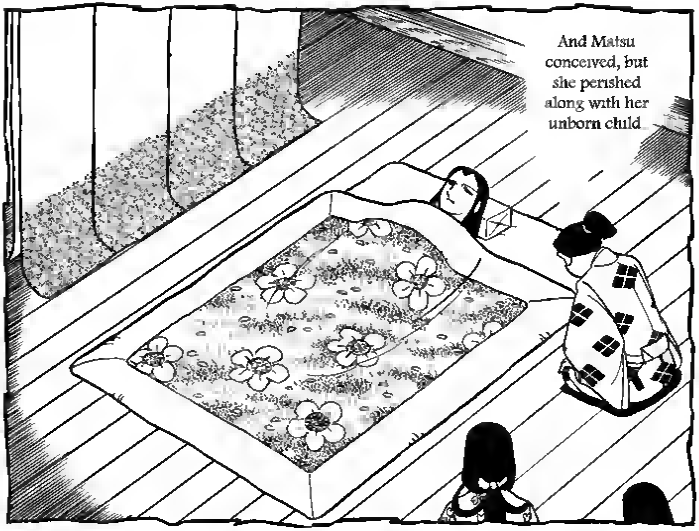
I HAD BETTER NOT. IT WOULD PUT YOU IN A BAD MOOD.
NOW, WILL YOU TELL ME ABOUT THIS AWFUL EXPERIENCE YOU HAD?
WELL, AS I WAS OUT RIDING TODAY, SOME PEASANTS SUDDENLY CAME TO ME ACCUSING MY FATHER.
IT WILL STAVE OFF MY BOREDOM FOR NOW.
I DO NOT MIND BEING IN A BAD MOOD. I WISH TO KNOW JUST WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU.
AND WHAT DID THEY ACCUSE HIM OF?

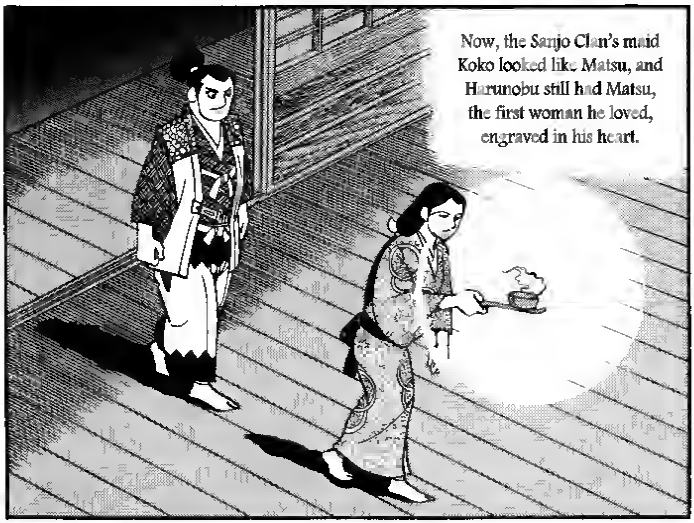
HOW MANY WOMEN'S BELLIES DID HE TEAR OPEN?
THAT MY FATHER IS TEARING OPEN THE BELLIES OF PREGNANT WOMEN, AND RIPPING OUT THEIR UNBORN CHILDREN
I HEARD THREE.
ONLY THREE? BUT STILL, THAT IS QUITE AN ODD THING FOR THE MASTER TO DO.
BUT IS THAT ALL?
THAT IS ALL.
OHHH, HOW DULL!

YOU SAY THIS TALE IS DULL?
KOKO, DOES THIS TALE TERRIFY YOU?
Y-YES, MY LADY...
WHAT A FRIGID WOMAN...
HOHO HO...

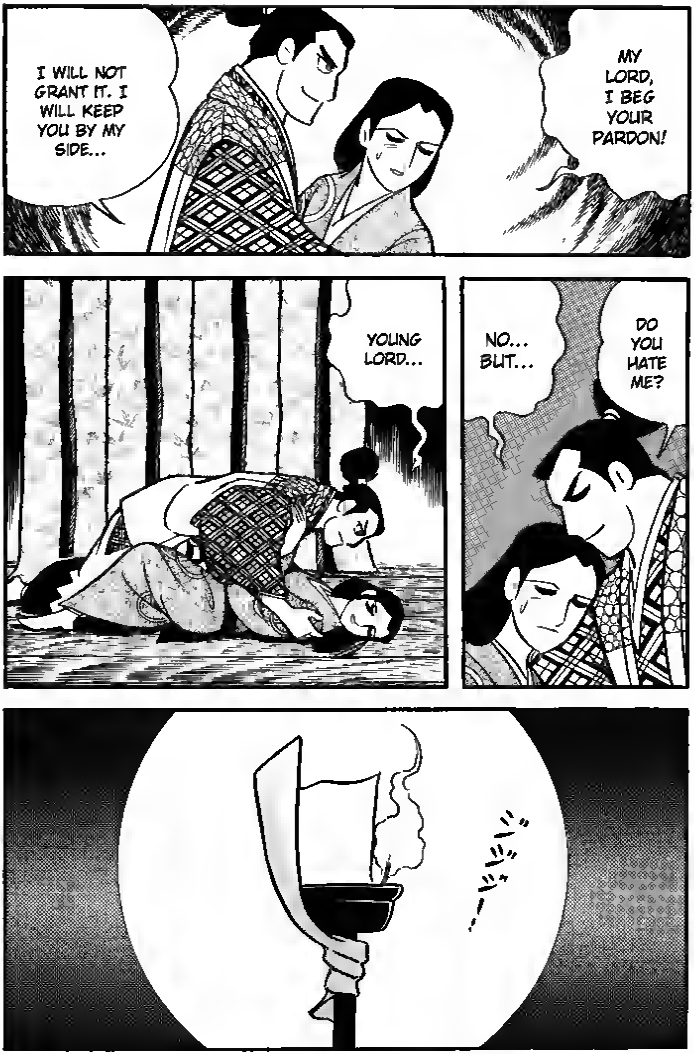
OH? ARE YOU LEAVING ALREADY?
KOKO, SHOW HIM OUT.
YES, MY LADY
HMPF. THAT WOMAN ONLY SEEMS TO LIVE FOR HERSELF.

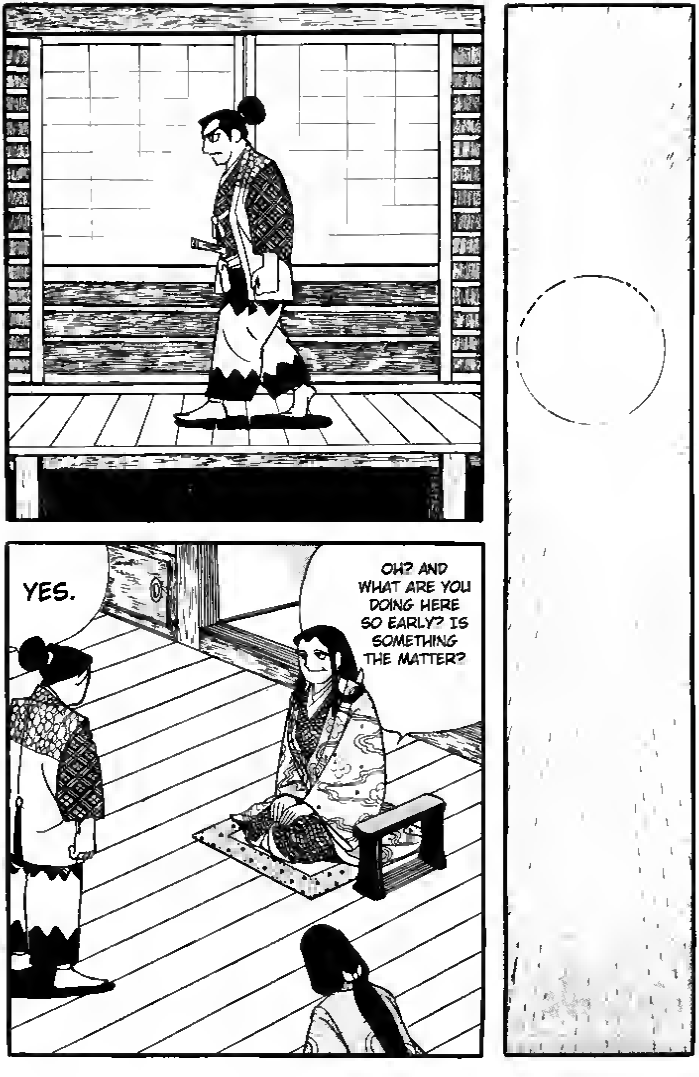

BUT STILL, KOKO HERE LOOKS SO MUCH LIKE MATSU. .
When Harunobu was thirteen, his father Nobutora forced him into a political marriage with Uesugi Tomooki's daughter, Matsu, who was fourteen years old


And Matsu conceived, but she perished along with her unborn child.

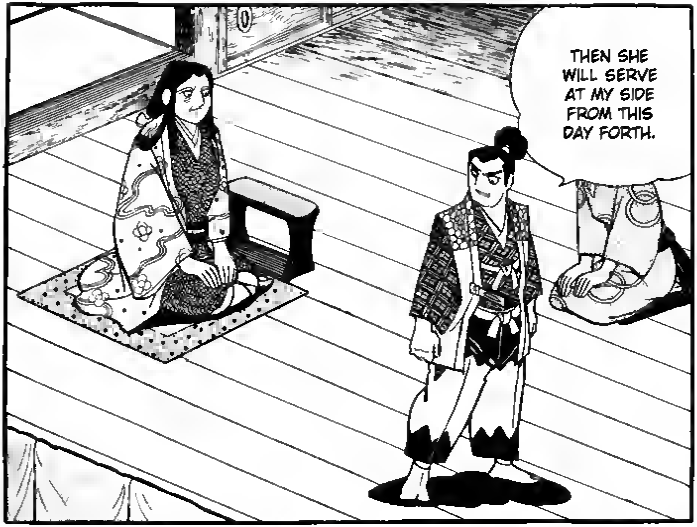

Now, the Sanjo Clan's maid Koko looked like Matsu, and Harunobu still had Matsu, the first woman he loved, engraved in his heart.

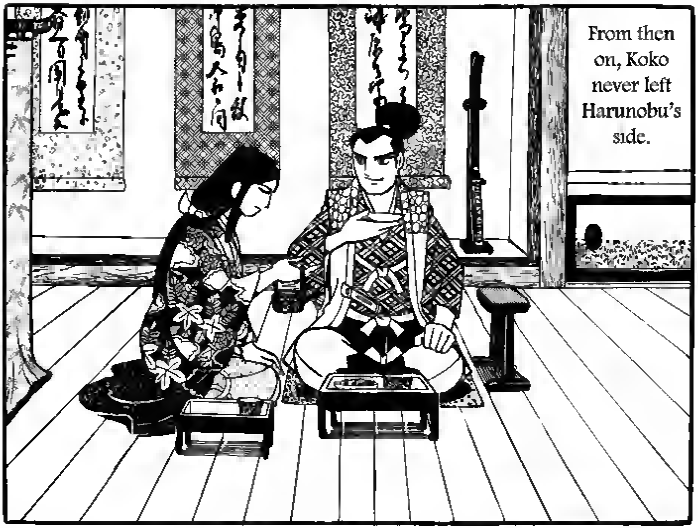
OH, YES, MY LORD. IT WAS TRULY A DREADFUL TALE.
KOKO, DOES THAT TALE STILL TERRIFY YOU?
I BEG YOUR PARDON, YOUNG LORD.
OH?
THEN I WILL CALM YOUR FEARS.
I HAVE BECOME FOND OF YOU.

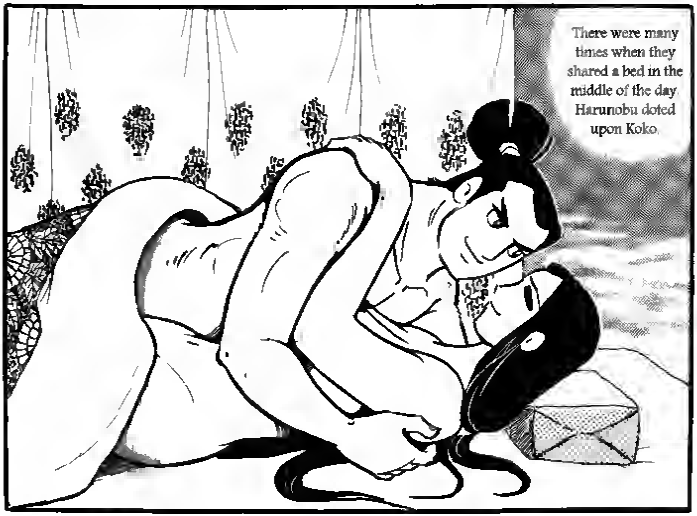

I WILL NOT GRANT IT. I WILL KEEP YOU BY MY SIDE...
MY LORD, I BEG YOUR PARDON!
YOUNG LORD...
NO... BUT...
DO YOU HATE ME?

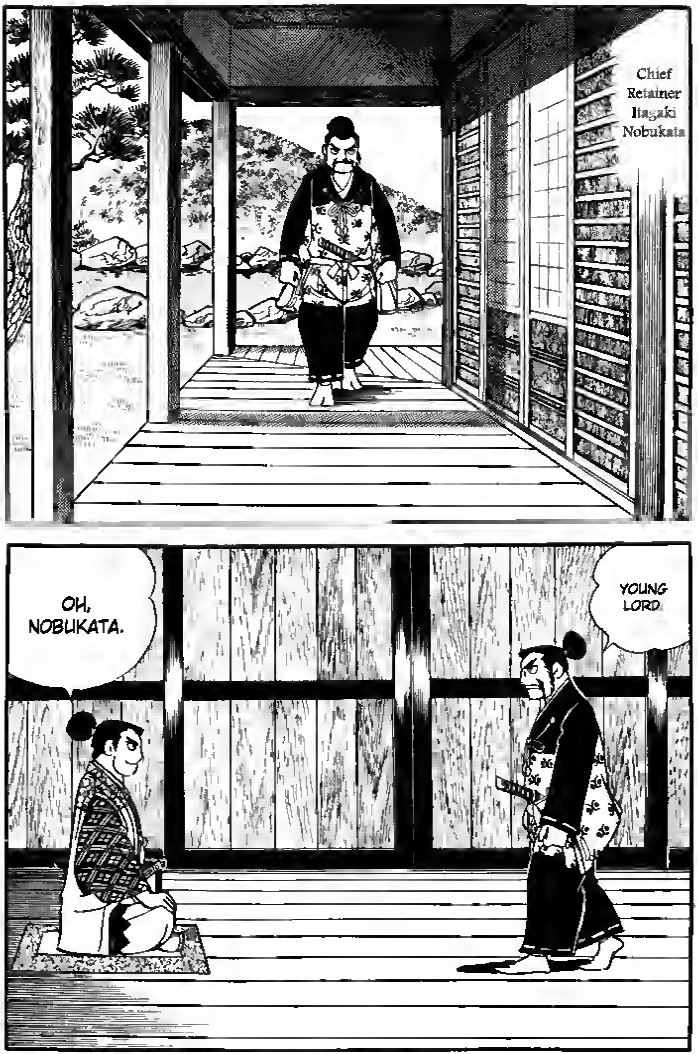

OH? AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE SO EARLY? IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?
YES.

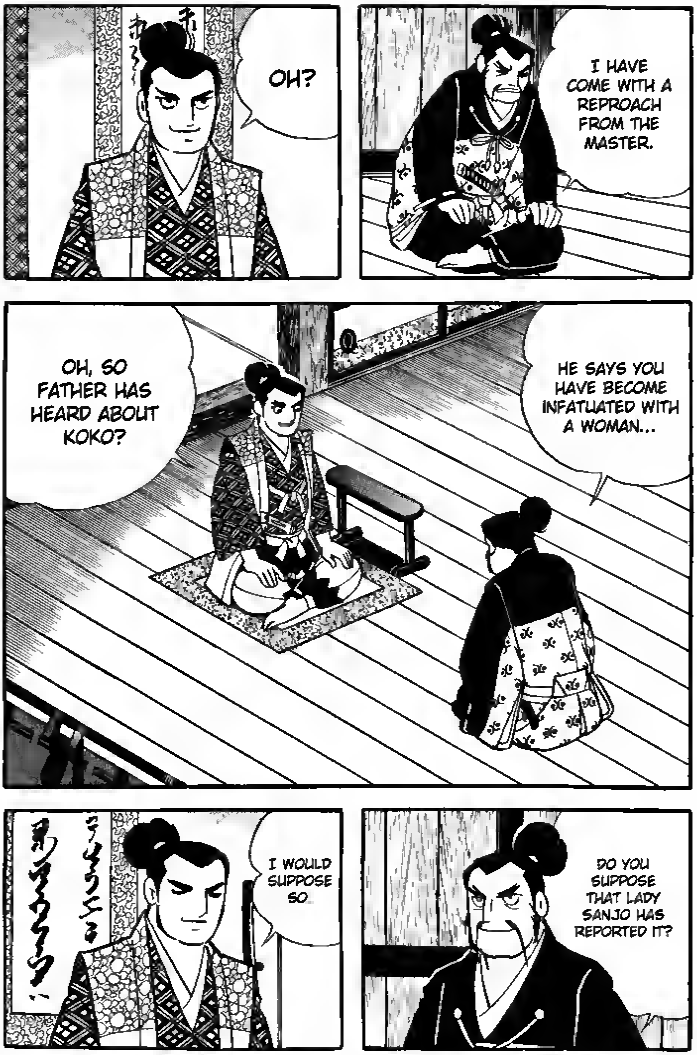
I HAVE CHOSEN TO MAKE KOKO MY CONCUBINE.
BUT KOKO IS YOUR MAID THAT YOU BROUGHT FROM KYOTO.
YOU HAVE NO NEED TO GIVE ME NOTICE OF THAT.
"IO"
YOU HAVE NO OBJECTIONS, THEN?
DO AS YOU WISH WITH HER.


THEN SHE WILL SERVE AT MY SIDE FROM THIS DAY FORTH.

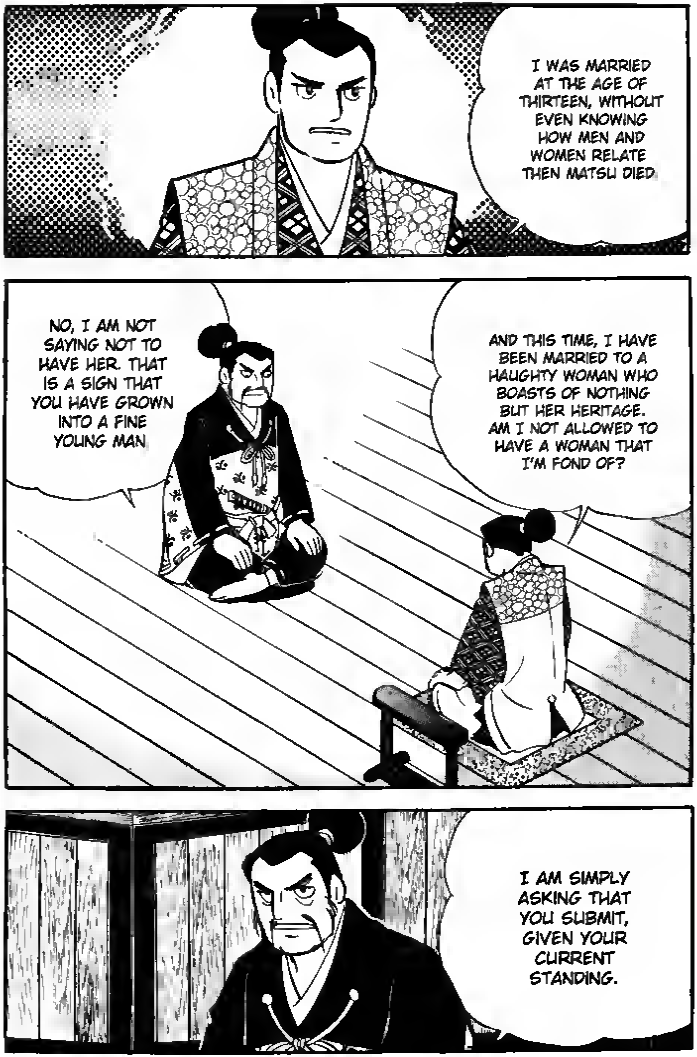

From then on, Koko never left Harunobu's side.

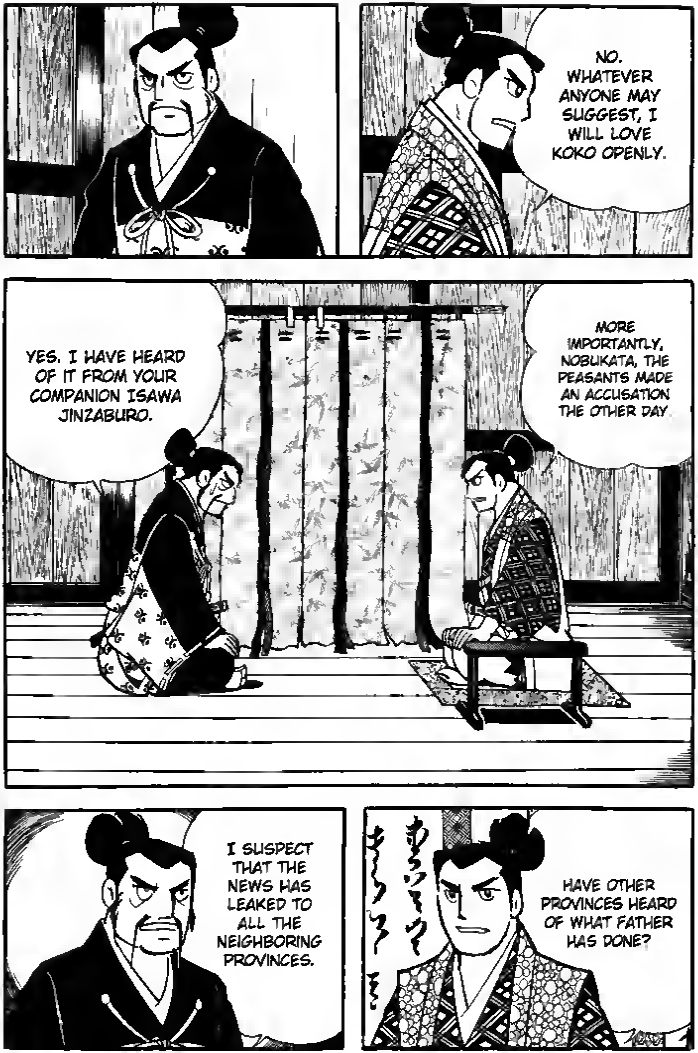

There were many times when they shared a bed in the middle of the day. Harunobu doted upon Koko.

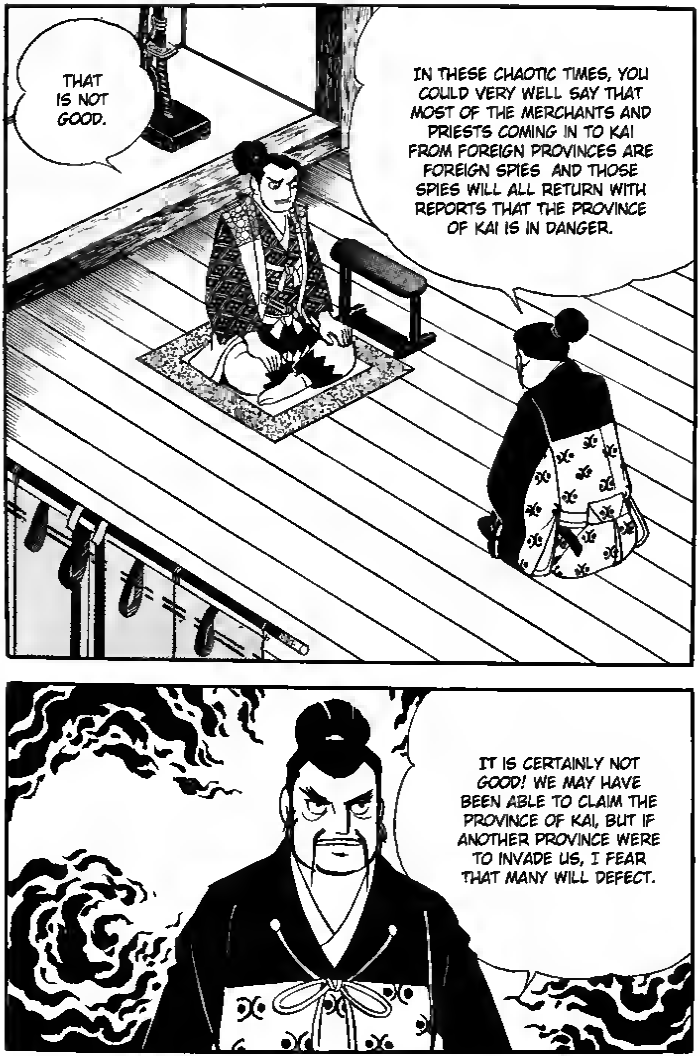

Chief Retainer Itagaki Nobukata
OH, NOBUKATA.
YOUNG LORD.

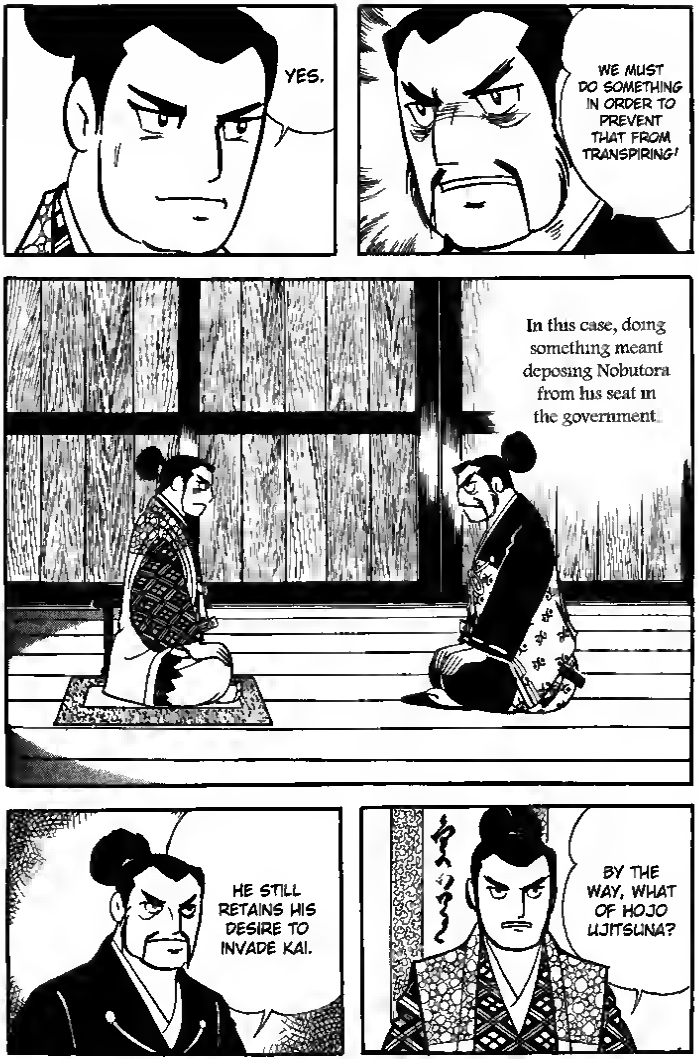

OH?
I HAVE COME WITH A REPROACH FROM THE MASTER.
OH, SO FATHER HAS HEARD ABOUT KOKO?
HE SAYS YOU HAVE BECOME INFATUATED WITH A WOMAN...
I WOULD SUPPOSE SO.
DO YOU SUPPOSE THAT LADY SANJO HAS REPORTED IT?

I KNOW.
YOUNG LORD, THE MASTER HAS HIS EYES ON YOU. HE IS TRYING TO MAKE YOUR BROTHER NOBUSHIGE HIS HEIR, AND SO HE IS LOOKING FOR A FAULT IN YOU.
IF YOU ARE FULLY AWARE OF IT, I BELIEVE IT IS CRUCIAL TO ACT IN MODERATION.
NOBUKATA, I AM NOT PHILANDERING. I HAVE FALLEN FOR HER FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.
IF YOU SUDDENLY ACT IMPULSIVELY OR DO SOMETHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY, IT WILL BE SEEN AS A RUSE. IF YOU ARE PHILANDERING...

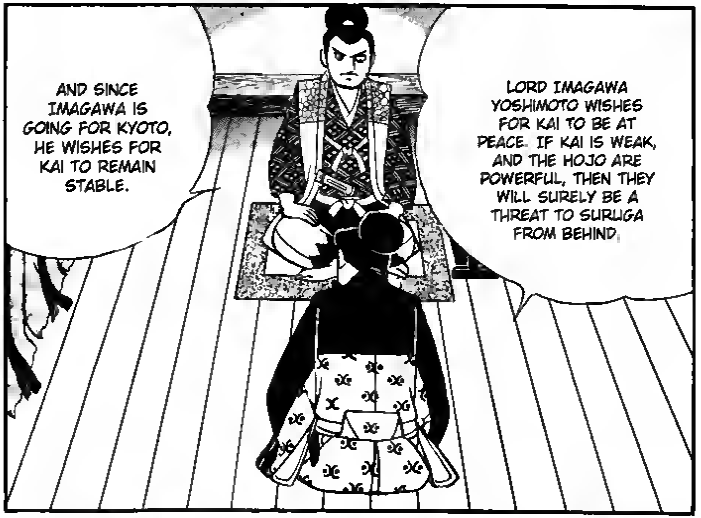

I WAS MARRIED AT THE AGE OF THIRTEEN, WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING HOW MEN AND WOMEN RELATE. THEN MATSU DIED.
NO, I AM NOT SAYING NOT TO HAVE HER. THAT IS A SIGN THAT YOU HAVE GROWN INTO A FINE YOUNG MAN.
AND THIS TIME, I HAVE BEEN MARRIED TO A HAUGHTY WOMAN WHO BOASTS OF NOTHING BUT HER HERITAGE. AM I NOT ALLOWED TO HAVE A WOMAN THAT I'M FOND OF?
I AM SIMPLY ASKING THAT YOU SUBMIT, GIVEN YOUR CURRENT STANDING.


NO. WHATEVER ANYONE MAY SUGGEST, I WILL LOVE KOKO OPENLY.
MORE IMPORTANTLY, NOBUKATA, THE PEASANTS MADE AN ACCUSATION THE OTHER DAY.
YES. I HAVE HEARD OF IT FROM YOUR COMPANION ISAWA JINZABURO.
HAVE OTHER PROVINCES HEARD OF WHAT FATHER HAS DONE?
I SUSPECT THAT THE NEWS HAS LEAKED TO ALL THE NEIGHBORING PROVINCES.

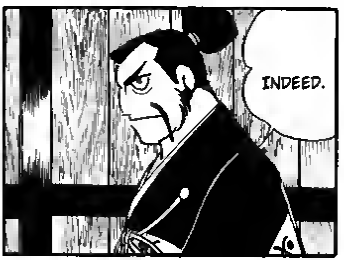

THAT IS NOT GOOD.
IN THESE CHAOTIC TIMES, YOU COULD VERY WELL SAY THAT MOST OF THE MERCHANTS AND PRIESTS COMING IN TO KAI FROM FOREIGN PROVINCES ARE FOREIGN SPIES AND THOSE SPIES WILL ALL RETURN WITH REPORTS THAT THE PROVINCE OF KAI IS IN DANGER.
IT IS CERTAINLY NOT GOOD! WE MAY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CLAIM THE PROVINCE OF KAI, BUT IF ANOTHER PROVINCE WERE TO INVADE US, I FEAR THAT MANY WILL DEFECT.


YES.
WE MUST DO SOMETHING IN ORDER TO PREVENT THAT FROM TRANSPIRING!
In this case, doing something meant deposing Nobutora from his seat in the government.
HE STILL RETAINS HIS DESIRE TO INVADE KAI.
BY THE WAY, WHAT OF HOJO UJITSUNA?

WE HAVE SENT YOUR SISTER TO SUGURA AS A BRIDE, SO THEY ARE CAREFULLY SCOUTING US NOW.
AND IMAGAWA ...?


AND SINCE IMAGAWA IS GOING FOR KYOTO, HE WISHES FOR KAI TO REMAIN STABLE.
LORD IMAGAWA YOSHIMOTO WISHES FOR KAI TO BE AT PEACE. IF KAI IS WEAK, AND THE HOJO ARE POWERFUL, THEN THEY WILL SURELY BE A THREAT TO SURUGA FROM BEHIND.

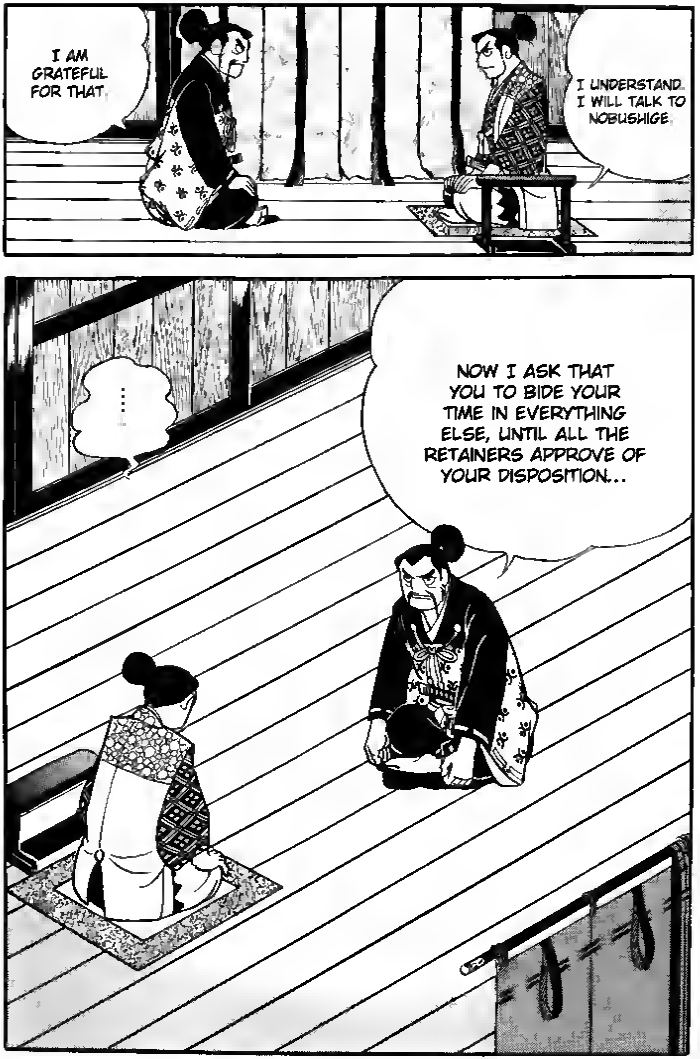
WHAT ABOUT SHINANO, ESPECIALLY SUWA?


INDEED.

HMM...
SUWA IS OUR GREATEST THREAT. THE SUWA CLAN DRAWS LINEAGE FROM THE KAMI CLAN, AND THEY HAVE A FERTILE LAND. WE CANNOT EXPAND INTO SHINANO WITHOUT SUPPRESSING THE SUWA.
RIGHT NOW WE SHOULD FOCUS NOT ON EXPANDING, BUT MAKING THE SUWA OUR ALLIES SOME-HOW, OR WE MAY BE INVADED BY SHINANO.
HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF A WAY TO AVOID THIS DANGER, NOBUKATA?
BUT OUR CURRENT MASTER DOES NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND THE DANGER WE FACE.

NENE...?
I BELIEVE THE BEST WAY WOULD BE TO SEND LADY NENE TO SUWA YORISHIGE...
BUT NENE IS ONLY TWELVE!
IT MUST BE DONE, FOR THE SAKE OF THE CLAN.
BUT WHO WOULD BREAK IT TO FATHER?
WE WILL HAVE TO HAVE LORD NOBUSHIGE, THE MASTER'S FAVOURED SON, BREAK THE NEWS.

AND YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN TELL LORD NOBUSHIGE.
HMM...
LORD NOBUSHIGE THINKS MOST HIGHLY OF YOU, SO IF YOU WERE TO ASK HIM, HE WOULD PROPOSE IT TO THE MASTER JUST AS YOU ASK.
YOU MUST TELL LORD NOBUSHIGE OF THIS AT ONCE, OR THERE WILL BE DIRE TROUBLE.

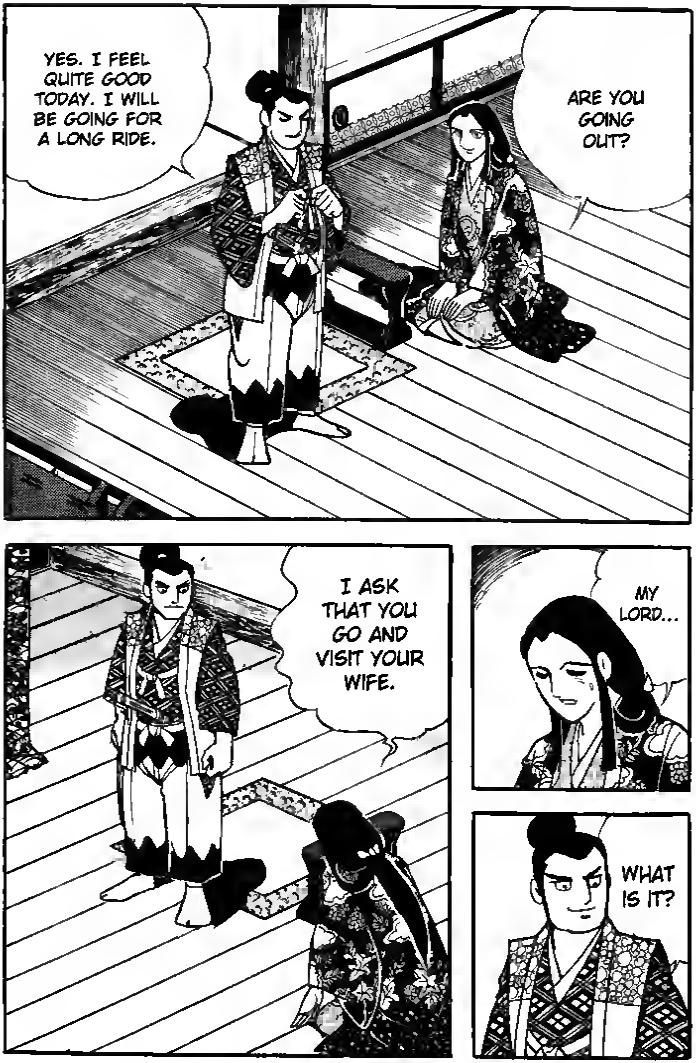

I AM GRATEFUL FOR THAT.
I UNDERSTAND. I WILL TALK TO NOBUSHIGE.
.....
NOW I ASK THAT YOU TO BIDE YOUR TIME IN EVERYTHING ELSE, UNTIL ALL THE RETAINERS APPROVE OF YOUR DISPOSITION...

TAKEDA SHINGEN

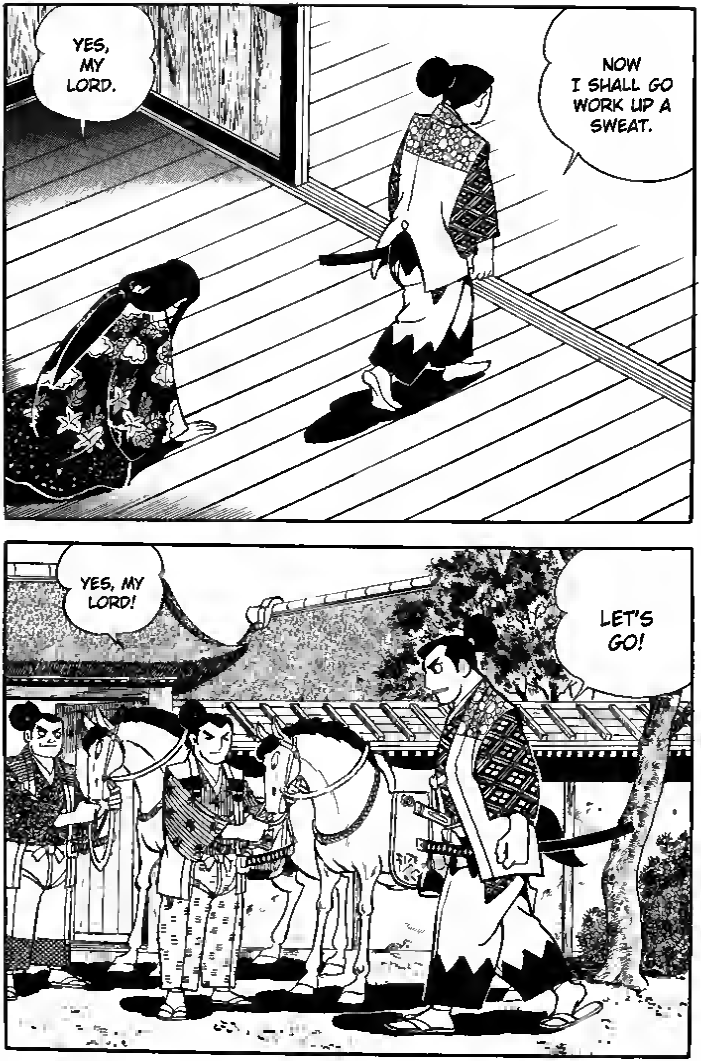
TRANSLATED BY SYSTEMATICCHAOS
PROOFREADING BY ANGELOFCHAOTIX
CLEANED BY WRIGHT
TYPESETTING BY ANI
QC BY KAZUHIKO

CHAPTER 2

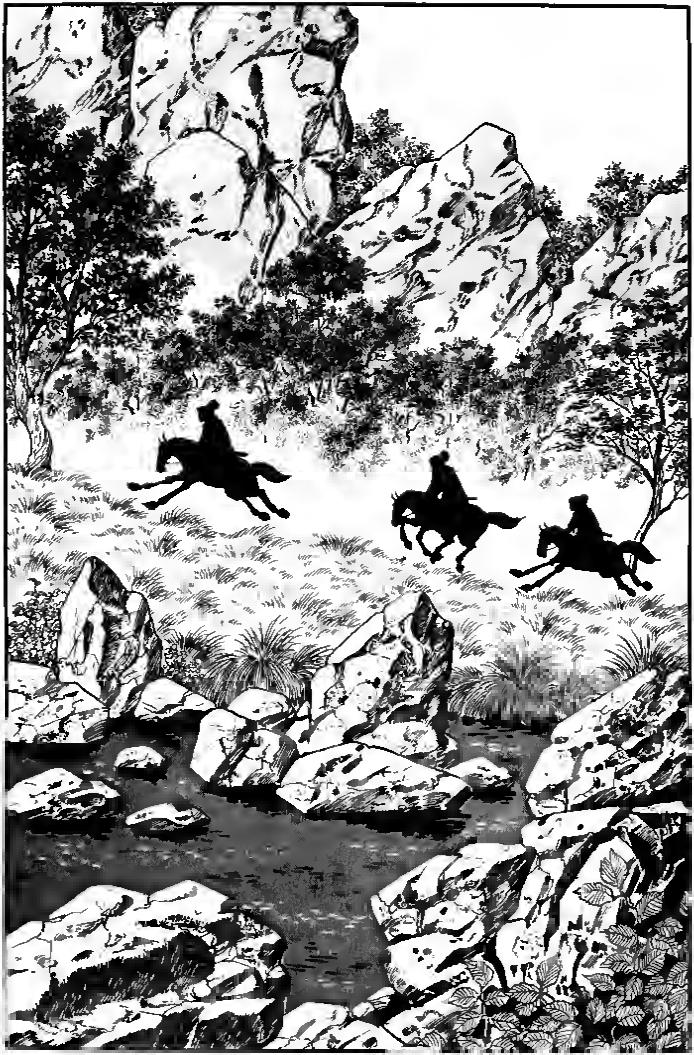
CHAPTER 3: THE KURASHINAS

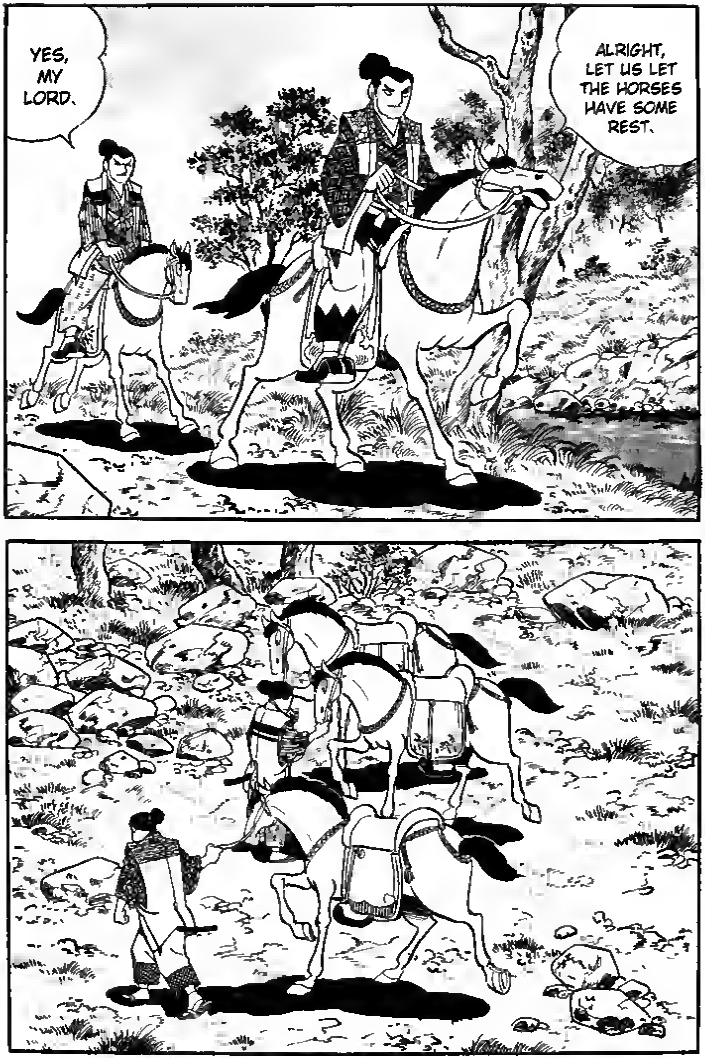

ARE YOU GOING OUT?
YES. I FEEL QUITE GOOD TODAY. I WILL BE GOING FOR A LONG RIDE.
MY LORD...
I ASK THAT YOU GO AND VISIT YOUR WIFE.
WHAT IS IT?

NO, I AM HAPPY, BUT ALSO THINKING OF YOUR WIFE...
ARE YOU NOT DISPLEASED BY ME VISITING YOU, KOKO ...?
EVERY OTHER WORD IS "IN KYOTO"... SHE TREATS ME LIKE SUCH A COUNTRY BUMPKIN, I TAKE NO PLEASURE IN VISITING HER.
BUT EVEN STILL...
NO NEED TO WORRY. I CANNOT COME TO LOVE HER, NO MATTER WHAT.
I FEEL SO CALM WHEN I AM WITH YOU.


YES, MY LORD.
NOW I SHALL GO WORK UP A SWEAT.
YES, MY LORD!
LET'S GO!

I AM THINKING OF GOING UPSTREAM ON THE FUEFUKI RIVER.
YOUNG LORD, WHERE SHALL WE GO TODAY?




YES, MY LORD.
ALRIGHT, LET US LET THE HORSES HAVE SOME REST.

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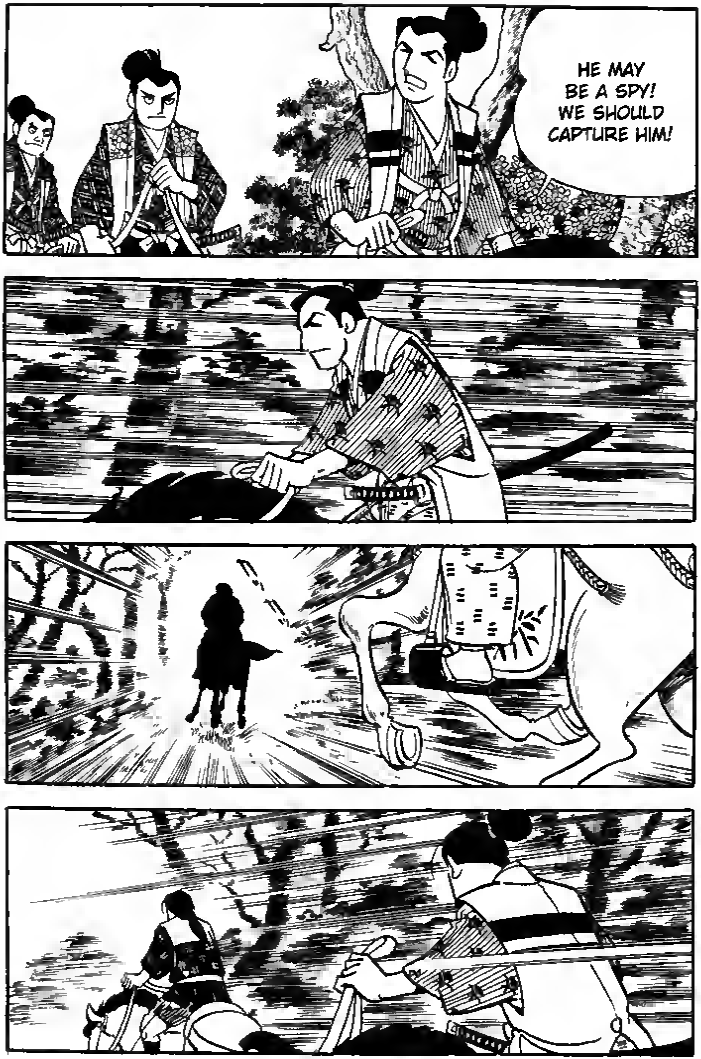
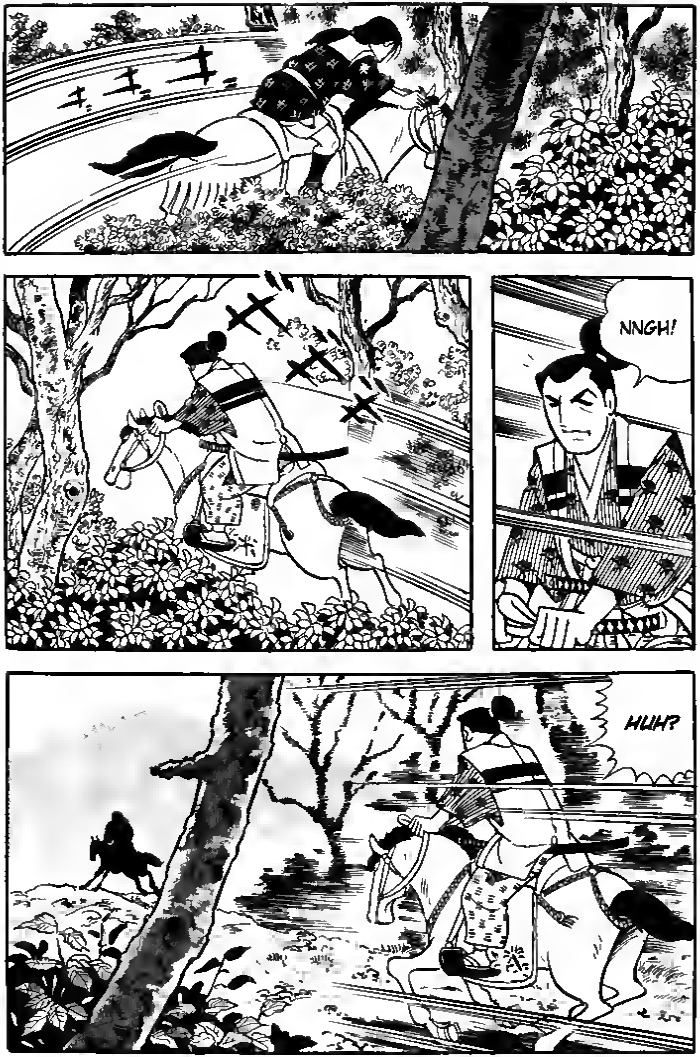
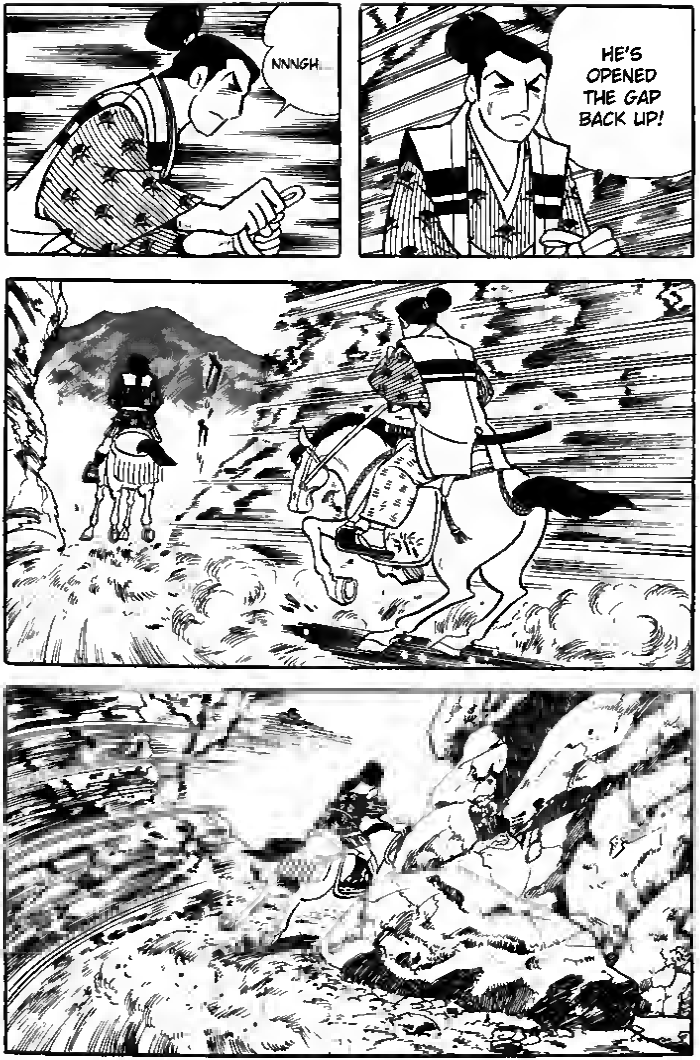
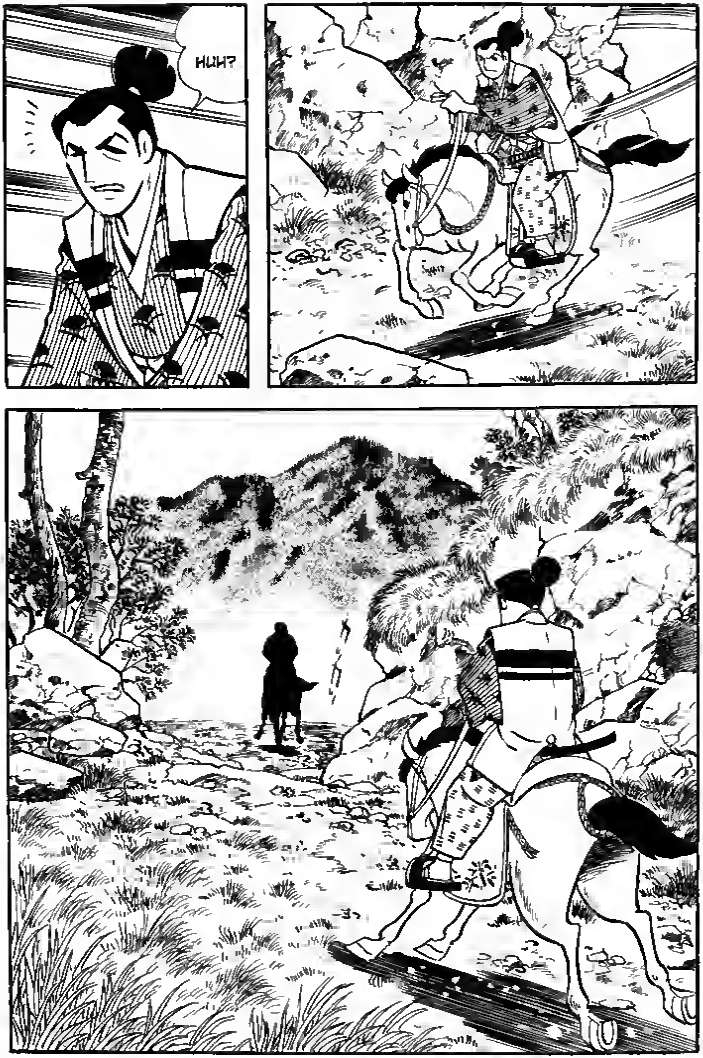
WE WILL PURSUE THAT YOUNG MAN.
OH?
LOOK AT THAT HORSE. IT IS NOT A FARM HORSE. HE CANNOT BE AN ORDINARY PEASANT.
YOUNG LORD, WHAT IS THE MATTER?

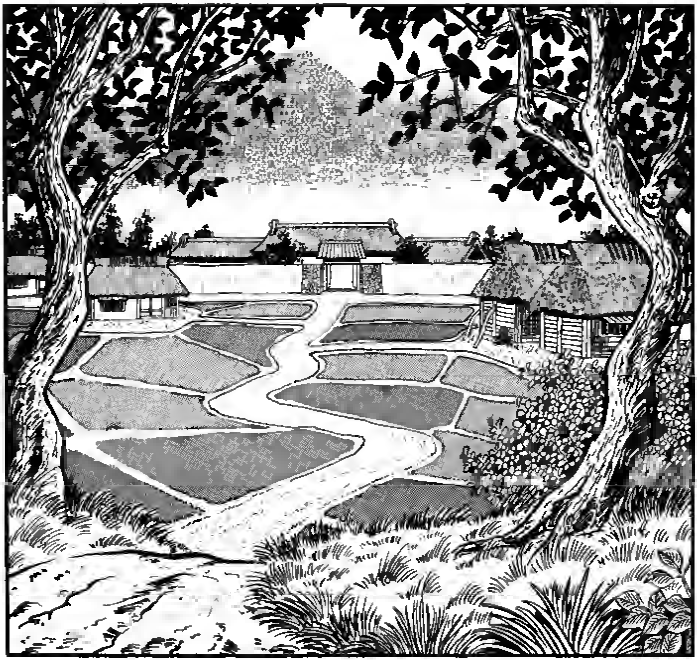

HE MAY BE A SPY! WE SHOULD CAPTURE HIM!

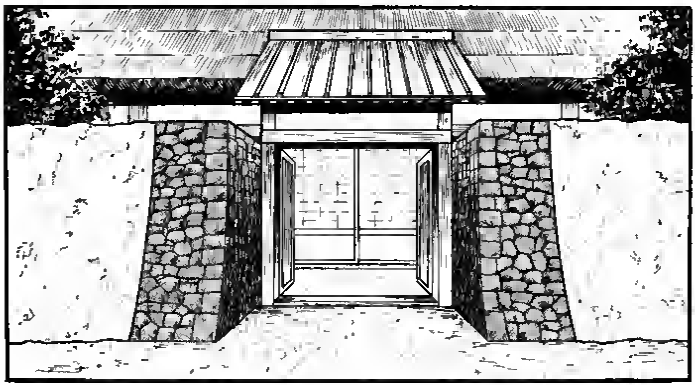

NNGH!
HUH?

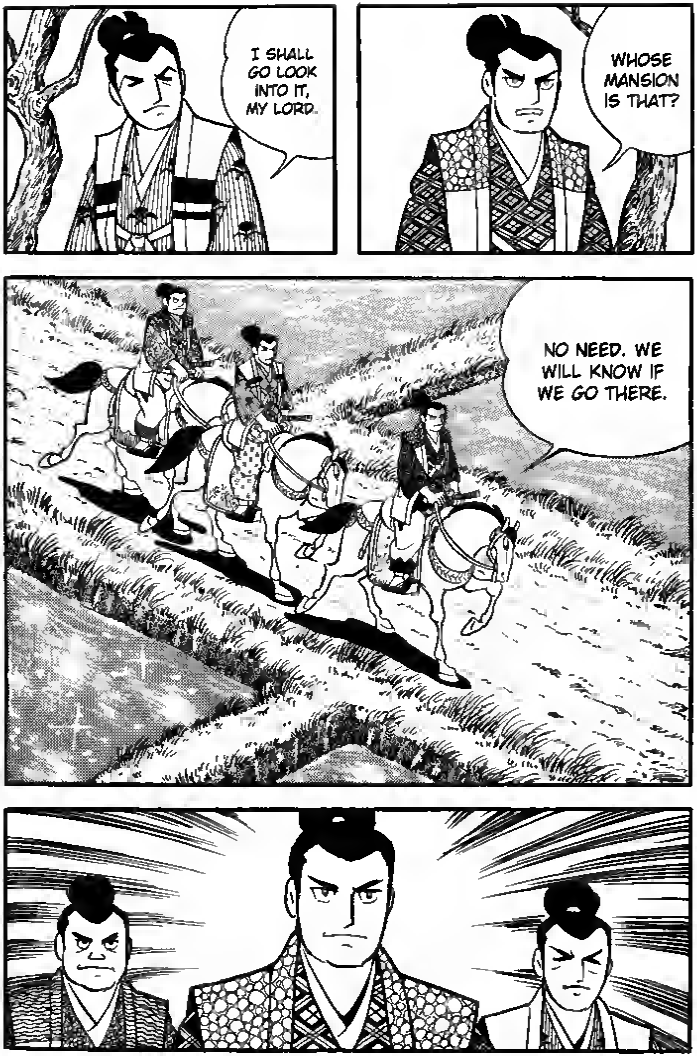

NNNGH...
HE'S OPENED THE GAP BACK UP!


ИШИ?

JINZABURO, DO NOT PURSUE HIM TOO FAR. THAT YOUNGSTER'S HORSEMANSHIP IS FAR SUPERIOR TO OURS.
BUT STILL, HE WAS A CONCEITED BASTARD.
OHH!





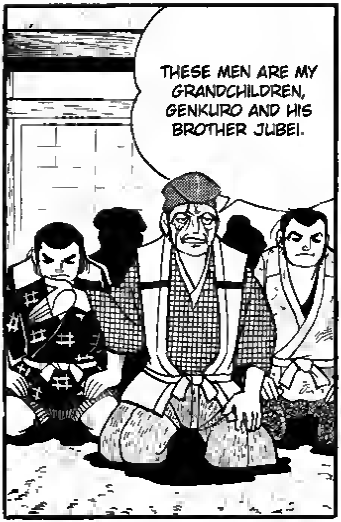

I SHALL GO LOOK INTO IT, MY LORD.
WHOSE MANSION IS THAT?
NO NEED. WE WILL KNOW IF WE GO THERE.

I AM KURASHINA SABURO-ZAEMON.

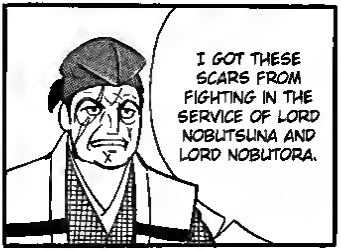
WHO GOES THERE?

THERE ARE FORTY-THREE.

HOW MANY SERVANTS ARE THERE IN THIS MANSION?

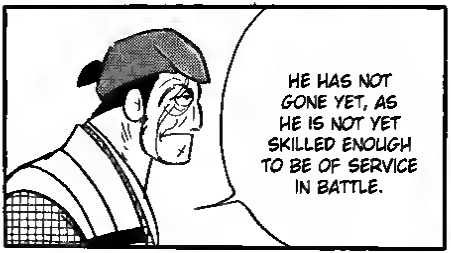

THESE MEN ARE MY GRANDCHILDREN, GENKURO AND HIS BROTHER JUBEI.

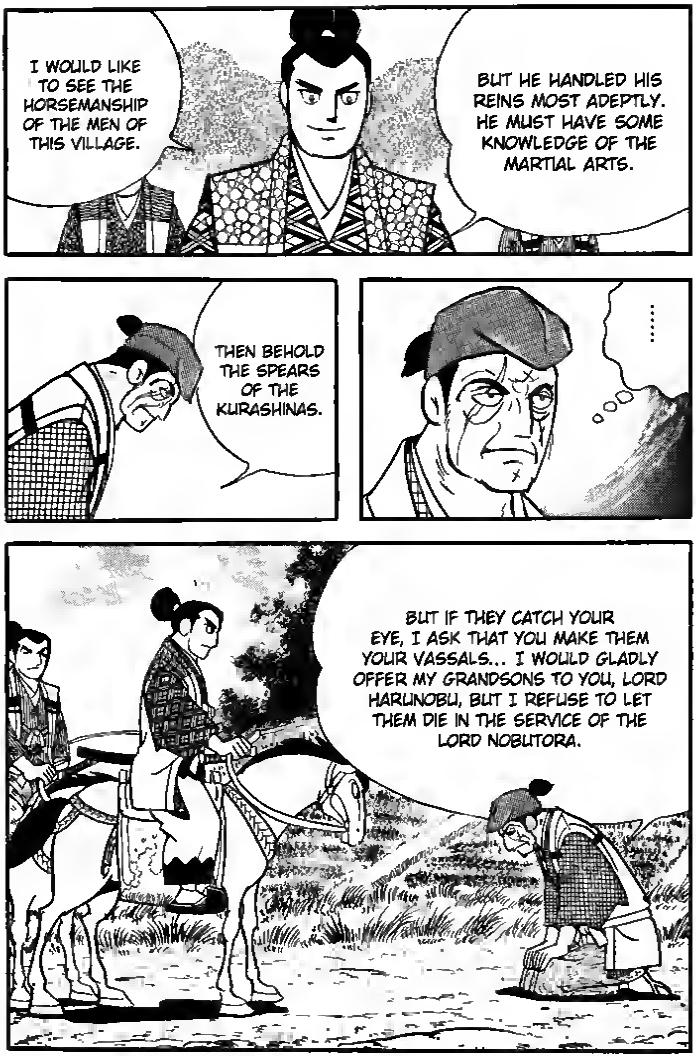
WHERE DID YOU EARN THOSE SCARS?


I GOT THESE SCARS FROM FIGHTING IN THE SERVICE OF LORD NOBUTSUNA AND LORD NOBUTORA.

NO.

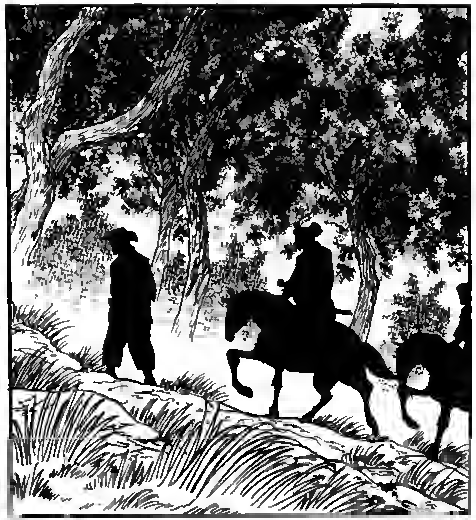
I SEE. SO YOUR NAME IS GENKURO. YOU SEEM TO BE A MASTER RIDER. HAVE YOU GONE TO BATTLE YET?


HE HAS NOT GONE YET, AS HE IS NOT YET SKILLED ENOUGH TO BE OF SERVICE IN BATTLE.

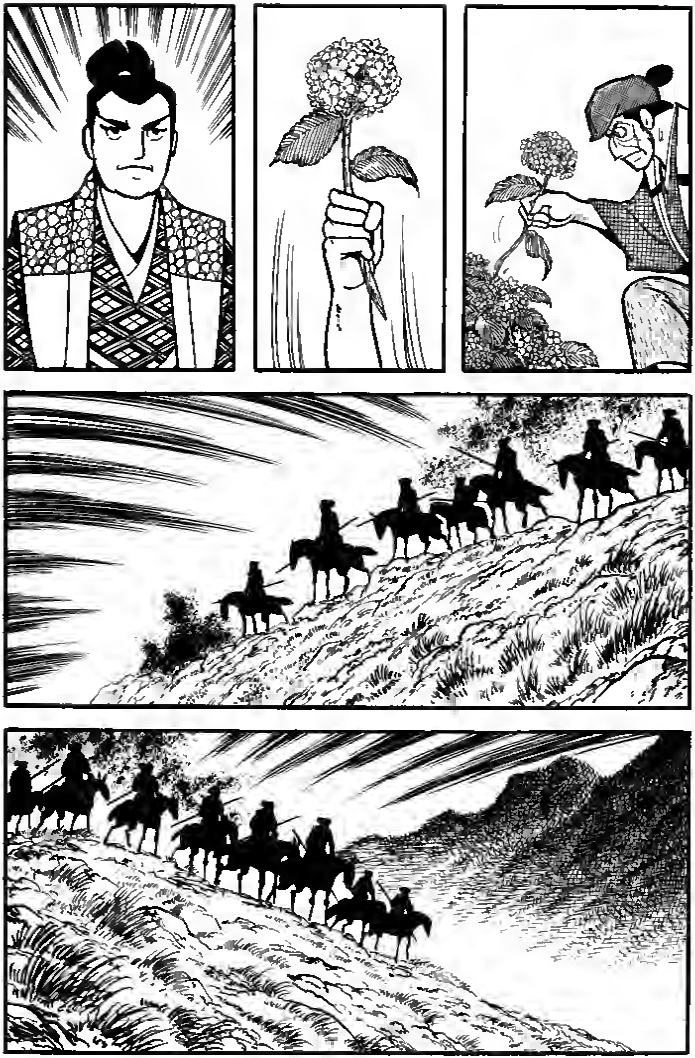

I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE HORSEMANSHIP OF THE MEN OF THIS VILLAGE.
BUT HE HANDLED HIS REINS MOST ADEPTLY. HE MUST HAVE SOME KNOWLEDGE OF THE MARTIAL ARTS.
THEN BEHOLD THE SPEARS OF THE KURASHINAS.
.....
BUT IF THEY CATCH YOUR EYE, I ASK THAT YOU MAKE THEM YOUR VASSALS... I WOULD GLADLY OFFER MY GRANDSONS TO YOU, LORD HARUNOBU, BUT I REFUSE TO LET THEM DIE IN THE SERVICE OF THE LORD NOBUTORA.

I KNOW... BUT... I SIMPLY REFUSE TO SERVE LORD NOBUTORA.
WHY DO YOU NOT WANT THEM IN MY FATHER'S SERVICE? MY FATHER IS THE LORD OF KAI, AND YOU KNOW THAT THE LORD'S WORD IS LAW.
HE MUST HAVE GREAT DETERMINATION TO DECLARE THAT TO ME, KNOWING THAT...
IF I WERE TO TELL MY FATHER THESE EXACT WORDS, HE WOULD HAVE THE KURASHINAS MASSACRED...
Y-YES, MY LORD.
I UNDERSTAND WHEN THE TIME COMES, I WILL GLADLY HAVE BOTH GENKURO, AND JUBEI SERVE AS MY VASSALS.
WAIT. THERE ARE MANY MINOR CLANS LIKE THE KURASHINAS IN THIS REGION... IT COULD BE THAT SABUROZAEMON IS SPEAKING AS THEIR REPRESENTATIVE...

HORSE-RIDING GROUND?
THEN COME TO THE HORSE-RIDING GROUND, LORD HARUNOBU.
OUR HORSE-RIDING GROUND IS JUST ON THE MOUNTAIN BEHIND MY ESTATE.
YES, MY LORD.
I SEE. THEN I ASK THAT YOU WOULD GUIDE ME.



YOU SAY THIS IS A HORSE-RIDING GROUND?
THIS IS OUR HORSE-RIDING GROUND.

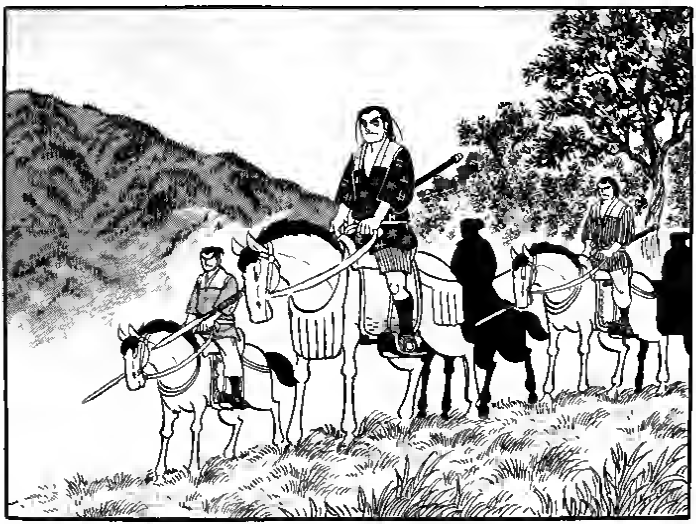


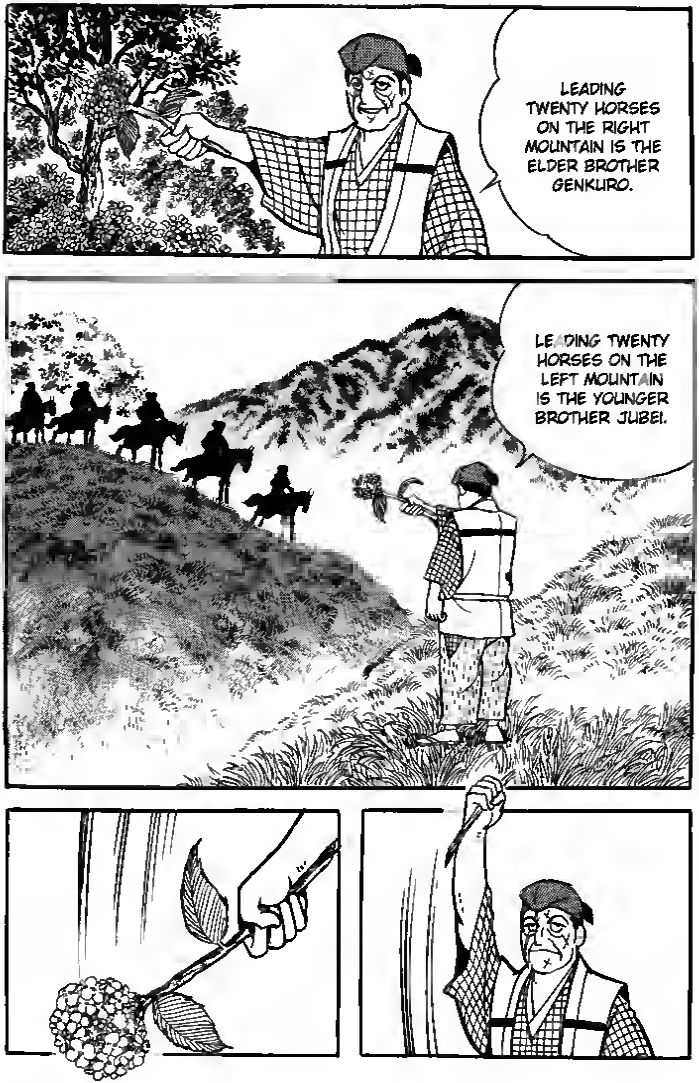
TAKEDA SHINGEN

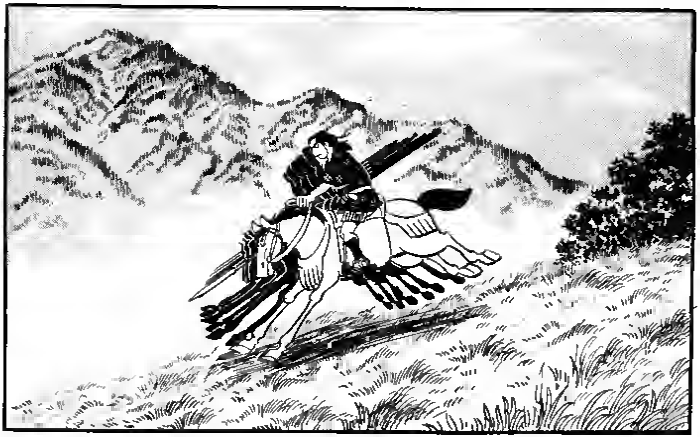
TRANSLATED BY SYSTEMATICCHAOS
PROOFREADING BY ANGELOFCHAOTIX
CLEANED BY WRIGHT
TYPESETTING BY ANI
QC BY KAZUHIKO

CHAPTER 3

CHAPTER 4: DANCE OF OME

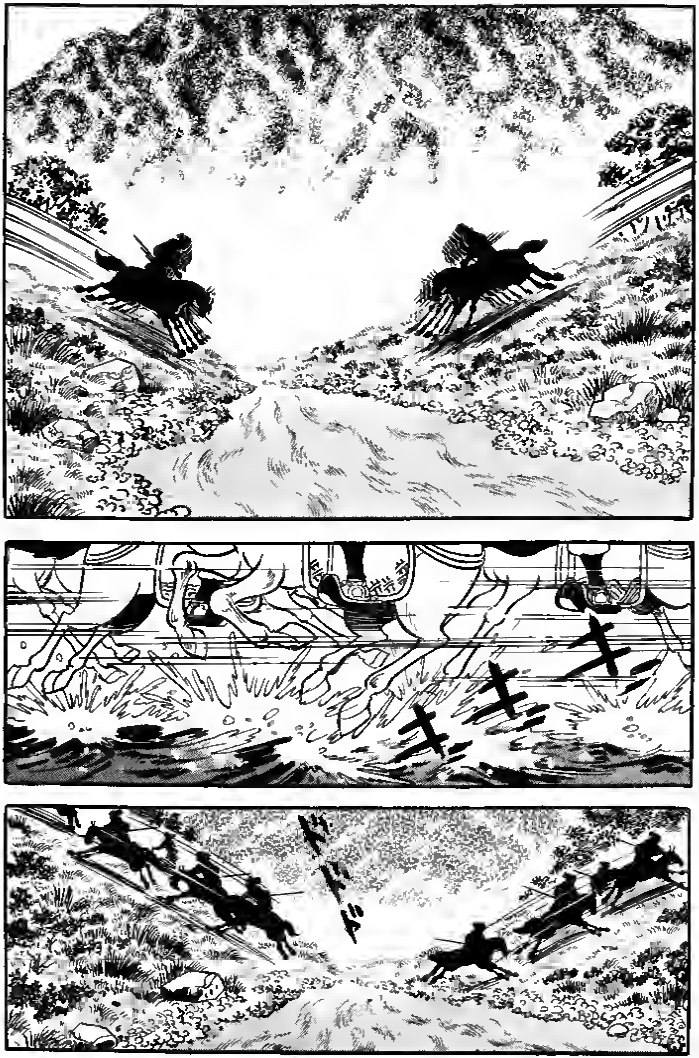



LEADING TWENTY HORSES ON THE RIGHT MOUNTAIN IS THE ELDER BROTHER GENKURO.
LEADING TWENTY HORSES ON THE LEFT MOUNTAIN IS THE YOUNGER BROTHER JUBEI.



THAT ROW LOOKS LIKE ONE HORSE FROM THE SIDE!

OHHH!



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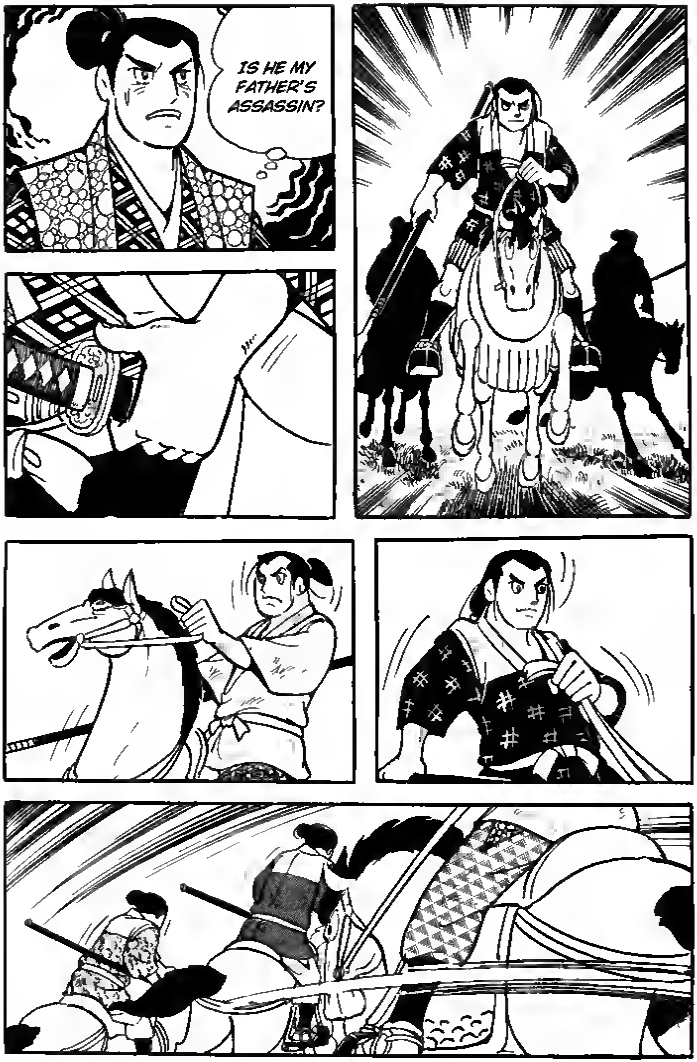
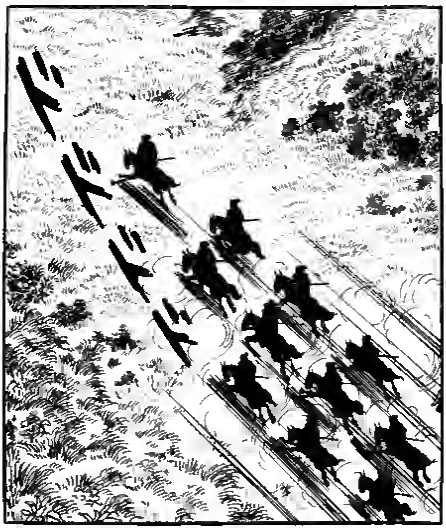
HUH?


IS HE MY FATHER'S ASSASSIN?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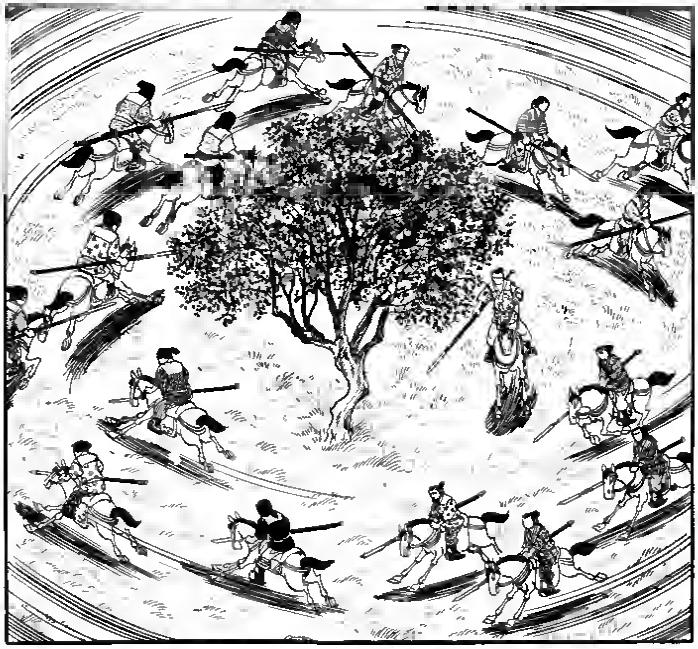
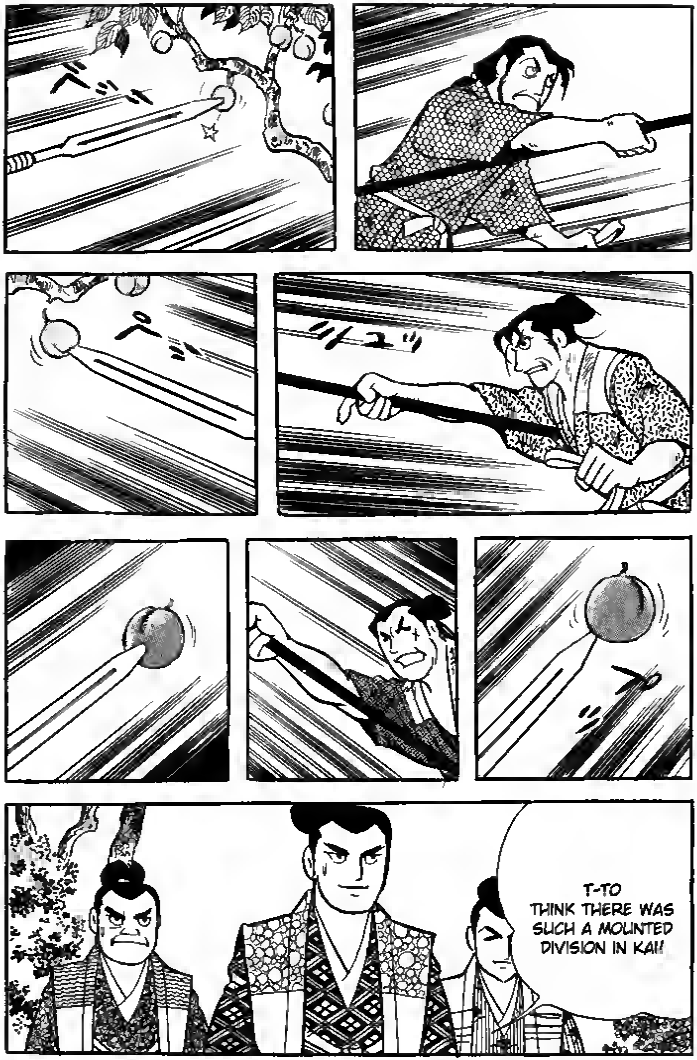
PHEW...

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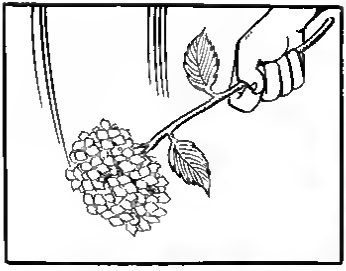
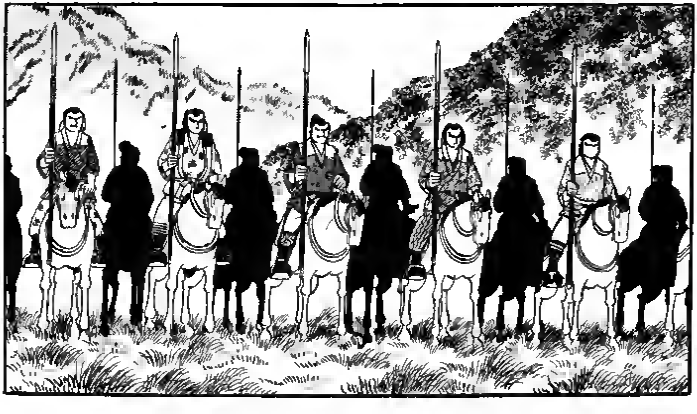
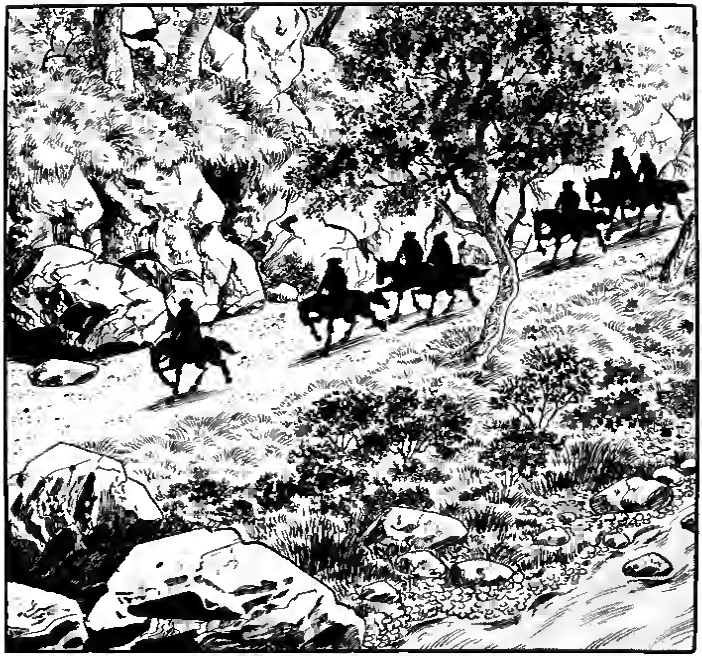
T-TO THINK THERE WAS SUCH A MOUNTED DIVISION IN KAI!

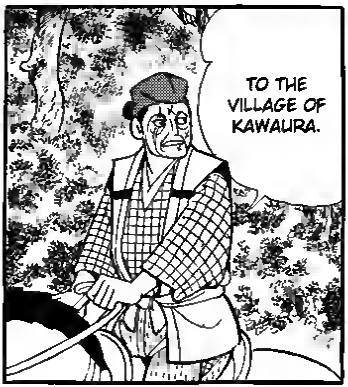




IT WAS INCREDIBLE. THIS IS THE PRIDE AND GLORY OF KAI.
THIS WAS THE DANCE OF OME. DOES IT LIVE UP TO YOUR EXPECTATIONS?
WHAT? WHO DO YOU WISH FOR ME TO MEET?
THE KURASHINAS WILL ACCOMPANY YOU NOW. THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE WE WISH FOR YOU TO MEET.
MY LORD! YOU MUST NOT TRUDGE TOO DEEP INTO THINGS WE DO NOT UNDER-STAND!

WILL YOU NOT MEET WITH THEM?
IF THESE MEN INTENDED TO HARM ME, THEY WOULD HAVE DONE SO LONG AGO. WHEN IN THE COUNTRY, DO AS THE COUNTRYMEN DO.
SHOW ME THE WAY.
SO YOU WILL MEET WITH THEM?




TO THE VILLAGE OF KAWAURA.

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

IT IS A HOT-SPRING RESORT FOR SOLDIERS WOUNDED IN BATTLE TO TREAT THEIR WOUNDS.
WHAT IS THE VILLAGE OF KAWAURA?
SEE, THERE IT IS!

TAKEDA SHINGEN

武田信玄

TAKEDA SHINGEN

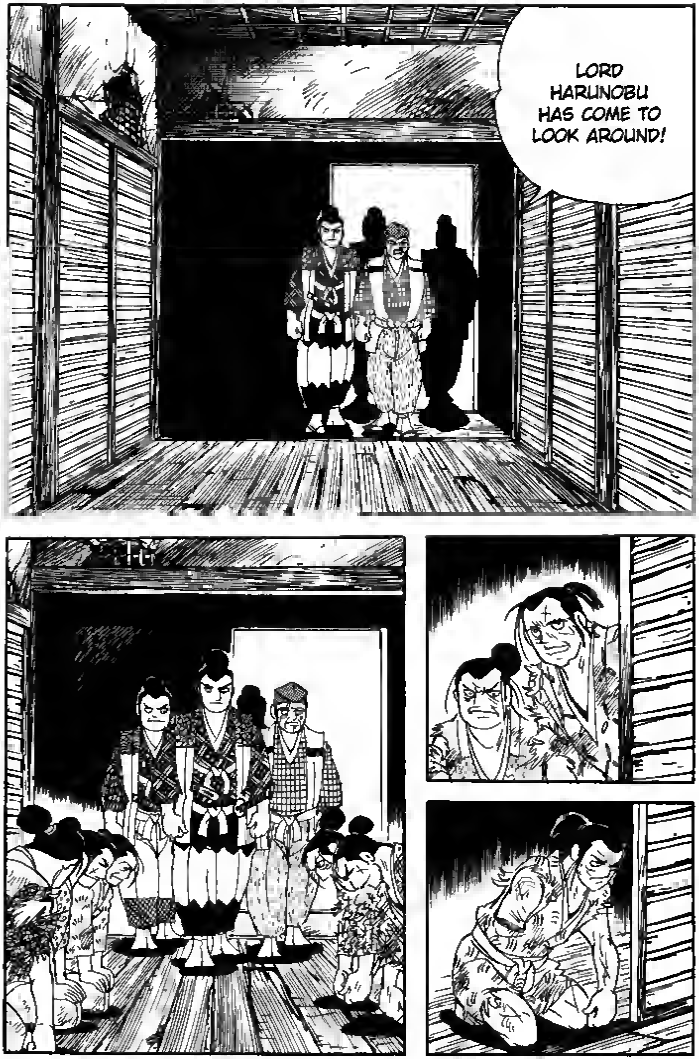
PRESENTED BY
HOKUTO NO GUN
AND HAPPY SCANS

TRANSLATED BY SYSTEMATICCHAOS
PROOFREADING BY ANGELOFCHAOTIX
CLEANED BY WRIGHT
TYPESETTING BY ANI
QC BY KAZUHIKO

CHAPTER 4

CHAPTER 5: SUGGESTION OF TREASON

HERE WE ARE.


LORD HARUNOBU HAS COME TO LOOK AROUND!

WE HAVE ALL FOUGHT FOR THE TAKEDA CLAN.
MANY PEOPLE HAVE DIED AND MANY PEOPLE WERE INJURED, BUT WE WERE STILL READY FOR BATTLE. BUT WHAT HAVE WE GAINED AS A RESULT?
LORD NOBUTORA HAS UNITED KAI, AND I HEAR HE HAS BEEN GIVEN A COURT RANK FROM KYOTO. BUT WHAT HAS HE GRANTED UPON US? TAXES UPON TAXES, AND SLAVE LABOR UPON SLAVE LABOR.
OUR FIELDS HAVE BEEN RAVAGED, OUR MEN AND HORSES HARMED, AND WE ARE AT LONG LAST BEING DRIVEN INTO POVERTY!

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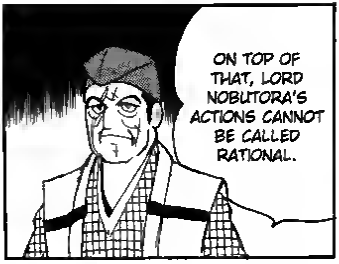
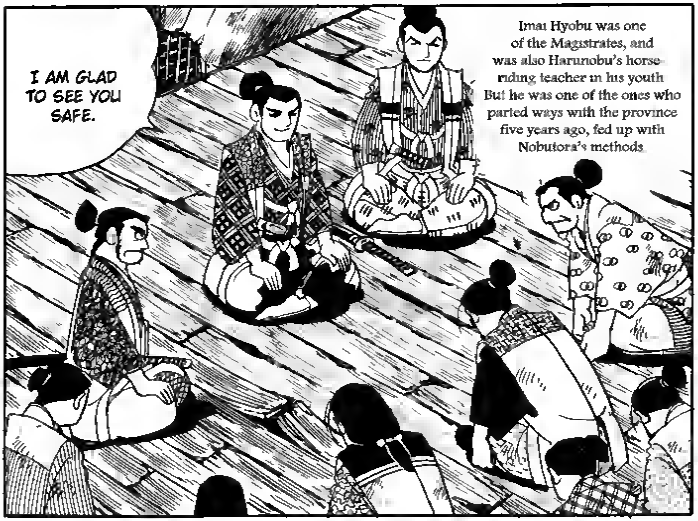

ON TOP OF THAT, LORD NOBUTORA'S ACTIONS CANNOT BE CALLED RATIONAL.

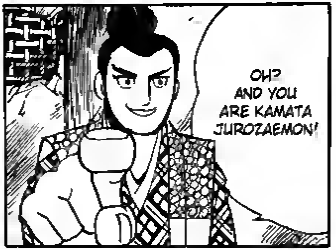
LORD HARUNOBU, THESE ARE THE PEOPLE I WANTED YOU TO MEET.

IT HAS BEEN QUITE SOME TIME.

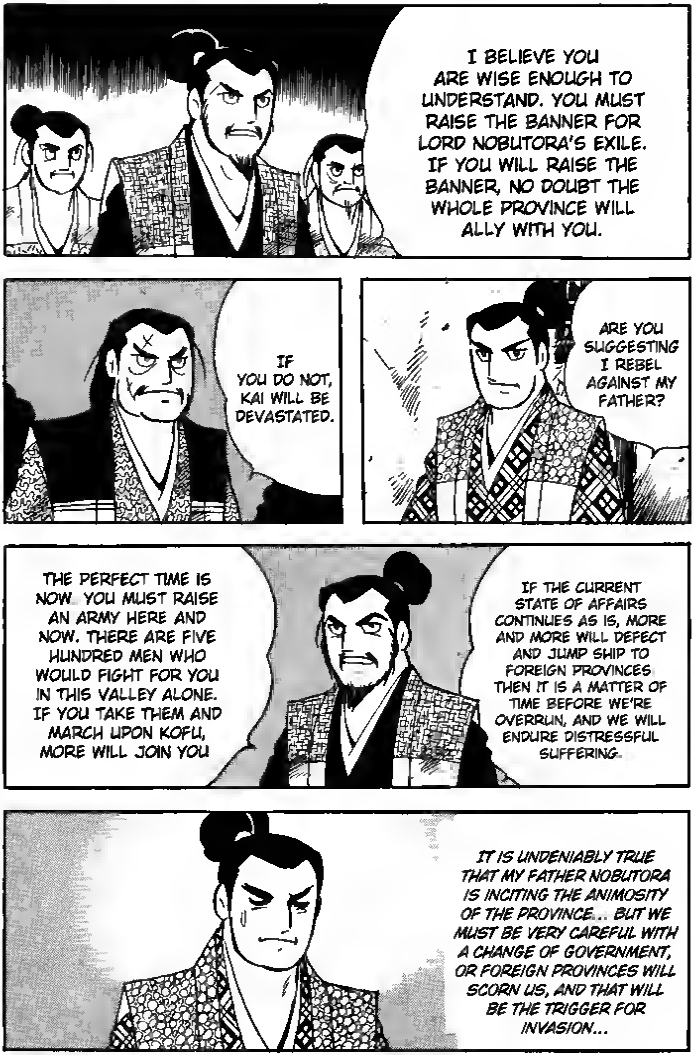
AHH! IMAI HYOBU?


I AM GLAD TO SEE YOU SAFE.
Imai Hyobu was one of the Magistrates, and was also Harunobu's horse-riding teacher in his youth But he was one of the ones who parted ways with the province five years ago, fed up with Nobutora's methods

YES. IT HAS BEEN QUITE SOME TIME.

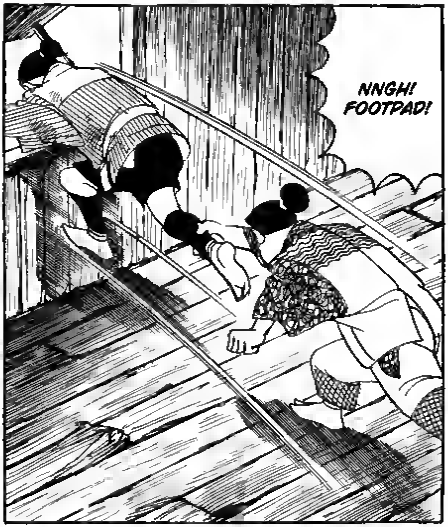

OH? AND YOU ARE KAMATA JUROZAEMON!

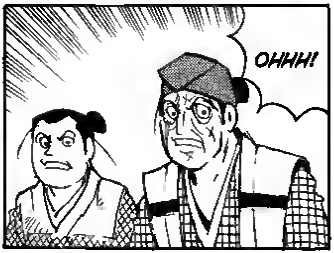
SANGUSA HANBEI, AT YOUR SERVICE.
AND YOU ARE...
I AM PLEASED TO SEE YOU ARE WELL.
They were all the Takeda magistrates that had fled the province
IT'S ABOUT MY FATHER..
WE HAVE SOMETHING TO ASK OF YOU, LORD HARUNOBU.


I BELIEVE YOU ARE WISE ENOUGH TO UNDERSTAND. YOU MUST RAISE THE BANNER FOR LORD NOBUTORA'S EXILE. IF YOU WILL RAISE THE BANNER, NO DOUBT THE WHOLE PROVINCE WILL ALLY WITH YOU.
IF YOU DO NOT, KAI WILL BE DEVASTATED.
ARE YOU SUGGESTING I REBEL AGAINST MY FATHER?
THE PERFECT TIME IS NOW. YOU MUST RAISE AN ARMY HERE AND NOW. THERE ARE FIVE HUNDRED MEN WHO WOULD FIGHT FOR YOU IN THIS VALLEY ALONE. IF YOU TAKE THEM AND MARCH UPON KOFU, MORE WILL JOIN YOU
IF THE CURRENT STATE OF AFFAIRS CONTINUES AS IS, MORE AND MORE WILL DEFECT AND JUMP SHIP TO FOREIGN PROVINCES. THEN IT IS A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE WE'RE OVERRUN, AND WE WILL ENDURE DISTRESSFUL SUFFERING.
IT IS UNDENIABLY TRUE THAT MY FATHER NOBUTORA IS INCITING THE ANIMOSITY OF THE PROVINCE... BUT WE MUST BE VERY CAREFUL WITH A CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT, OR FOREIGN PROVINCES WILL SCORN US, AND THAT WILL BE THE TRIGGER FOR INVASION...

NO, THEY WILL SHUT ME UP IN HERE AND SPREAD RUMORS THAT HARUNOBU IS COMMITTING TREASON, SO THEIR ALLIES WOULD RISE TO ACTION! WHICH WOULD MEAN INSURRECTION! I CANNOT ANSWER THEM CARELESSLY.
BUT... THEN WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I REFUSE? WILL THESE PEOPLE SEND ME BACK TO KOFU?
An eerie silence flowed between both sides. But everyone's breathing was rough and unsteady.

THERE IS SOMEONE BESIDE ME WHO IS NOT BREATHING UNSTEADILY.
HUH?
ARE YOU FROM THE KURASHINA'S MANOR?

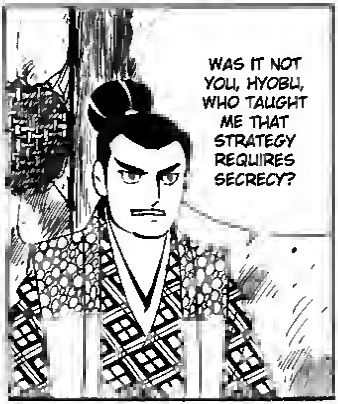

NNGH!
FOOTPAD!


OHHH!

OHHH!

.....
WHO SENT YOU HERE? GIVE US A NAME!
BUT IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO KILL THIS SPY. I SUSPECT THAT HE FOLLOWED US DRESSED AS ONE OF KURASHINA SABUROZAEMON'S SERVANTS. SABUROZAEMON WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT HE WAS ONE OF THE DWELLERS OF THE HOT-SPRING VILLAGE, AND THE DWELLERS OF THE HOT-SPRING VILLAGE WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT HE WAS SABUROZAEMON'S SERVANT. HE VERY SKILLFULLY THREAD HIS WAY INTO HERE.
THERE'S NO USE. I FEAR HE WON'T SPEAK. WE MUST SILENCE HIM.
I WILL BE RETURNING.

IF THERE IS A SPY AT SUCH A CRUCIAL COUNCIL TO SUGGEST THAT I REVOLT AGAINST MY FATHER NOBUTORA, THAT MEANS THAT YOUR PLAN IS KNOWN.


WAS IT NOT YOU, HYOBU, WHO TAUGHT ME THAT STRATEGY REQUIRES SECRECY?

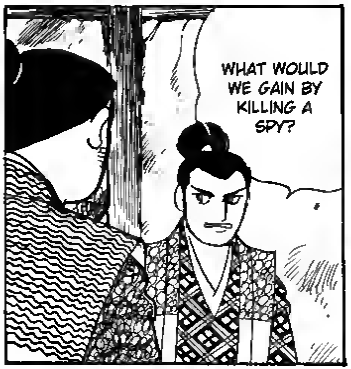
YOUR PLAN HAS ALREADY BEEN SHATTERED.
AND IF THERE IS A SPY HERE WHERE HYOBU IS SUGGESTING HIS PLAN, WE MUST CONSIDER THAT THERE COULD BE EVEN MORE SPIES SURROUNDING THE MANSION.

...
IF I DECLARE HERE THAT I WILL REVOLT AGAINST MY FATHER, THEN THIS VALLEY WILL BE OVERRUN BY AN ARMY SWARMING OUT OF KOFU BEFORE WE CAN GATHER OUR HORSES. AND IF I AM DEFEATED, THE TAKEDA WILL TRULY BE DESTROYED.

……

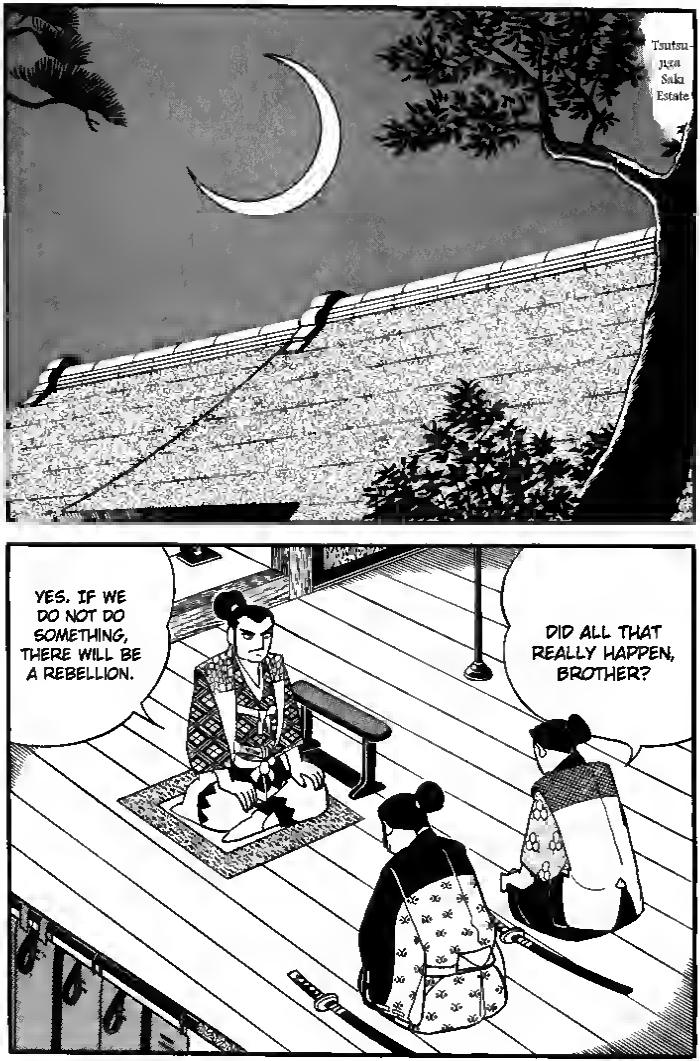
YOU. SPY.

YOHEI. UNTIE HIM.
WE'RE SETTING HIM FREE?


WHAT WOULD WE GAIN BY KILLING A SPY?

SINCE YOU ARE TOO GOOD TO BE KILLED, I WILL PARDON YOU. JUDGING BY YOUR COUNTENANCE, YOU SEEM TO HAVE COME FROM SAGAMI (HOJO) OR SURUGA (IMAGAWA) GO HOME AND REPORT THAT HARUNOBU IS NOT SO FOOLISH AS TO REVOLT AGAINST HIS FATHER.

NOW GO!
ALRIGHT, I WILL NOW RETURN. I PRESUME THERE ARE NO OBJECTIONS?
……


Tsutsuya Saki Estate
YES. IF WE DO NOT DO SOMETHING, THERE WILL BE A REBELLION.
DID ALL THAT REALLY HAPPEN, BROTHER?

AND THAT WOULD MEAN CIVIL WAR. AND THE NEIGHBORING PROVINCES WILL USE THAT CHANCE TO ASSAULT KAI.
BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, FATHER WILL HEAR OF THIS SOONER OR LATER THEN AS FATHER WAGES WAR UPSTREAM OF THE FUEFUKI RIVER, HE WILL ALSO HAVE YOU KILLED...
AVERT HIS EYES?
I HAVE FEARED THAT THIS MIGHT HAPPEN SOMEDAY. WE MUST MAKE HASTE. WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO AVERT THE MASTER'S EYES FOR A WHILE.
UNNO MUNETSUNA OF CHIISAGATA IN SHINANO HAS BEEN BUSTLING WITH ACTIVITY AS OF LATE. IF SOMETHING WERE TO HAPPEN IN CHIISAGATA, LORD NOBUTORA WOULD HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO SUIT UP FOR WAR.

THAT IS VERY TRUE. BUT IF THE MASTER IS BOUND TO HEAR OF IT EVENTUALLY, WE SHOULD REPORT IT TO HIM FIRST.
BUT WHAT IF FATHER LEARNS OF TODAY BEFORE THEN?
I SHALL HOLD HIM IN CHECK, AND TELL HIM THAT SHINANO WILL PROD US FROM BEHIND IF THERE IS A CIVIL WAR.
BUT IF MY FATHER HEARS THAT REPORT, HE WILL SEND HIS FORCES TO THE VILLAGE OF KAWAURA TONIGHT!
AND IF THE MASTER SAYS THAT HE WILL HAVE YOU KILLED... THEN I SHALL ACCEPT THE ROLE OF YOUR PURSUER AND LEAVE KOFU WITH YOU.

YES.
AND LORD NOBUSHIGE, YOU ASK HIM TO LET YOU HANDLE THOSE IN THE MOUNTAINS THAT ARE PLOTTING TREASON.
WE WILL THINK ABOUT THAT WHEN IT HAPPENS. THIS IS A PROBLEM WE CANNOT SOLVE WITHOUT GOING ALL THE WAY.
BUT TAKEDA'S VICTORY IS CLEAR AS DAY. WHAT WILL HAPPEN AFTER THAT? MY FATHER WILL KILL ME FOR PLOTTING REBELLION.
THEN HE WILL LEAVE THE AFFAIRS WITHIN THE PROVINCE TO LORD NOBUSHIGE, AND SEND HIS FORCES WITH YOU TO CHIISAGATA.
UNDER-STOOD.
LORD HARUNOBU, YOU TELL LORD IMAGAWA TO BE MORE CAUTIOUS IN HIS NEGOTIATIONS WITH LORD NOBUTORA.

YES, MY LORD. BUT IT WOULD SEEM THAT LORD HARUNOBU FLATLY REFUSED.
WHAT? THE FORMER MAGISTRATES SUGGESTED THAT HARU-NOBU REBEL?

MY BROTHER IS ASHAMED BY HIS OWN IGNORANCE FOR LETTING HIMSELF BE INVOLVED WITH IT.
THEN WHY DID HARUNOBU NOT REPORT TO ME PERSONALLY?
HEHEHE... SO HARUNOBU'S FINALLY STARTING TO UNDERSTAND HIMSELF. THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A HORSE-CRAZED WOMANIZER LIKE HIM GOES UPSTREAM THE FUEFUKI RIVER! HE GETS HIMSELF INTO TROUBLE LIKE THAT!
VERY WELL! WE SHALL SLAY THOSE REBELS TONIGHT!
BUT I SUPPOSE THE SAME GOES FOR THOSE WHO TRIED TO ENTICE THAT COWARD.

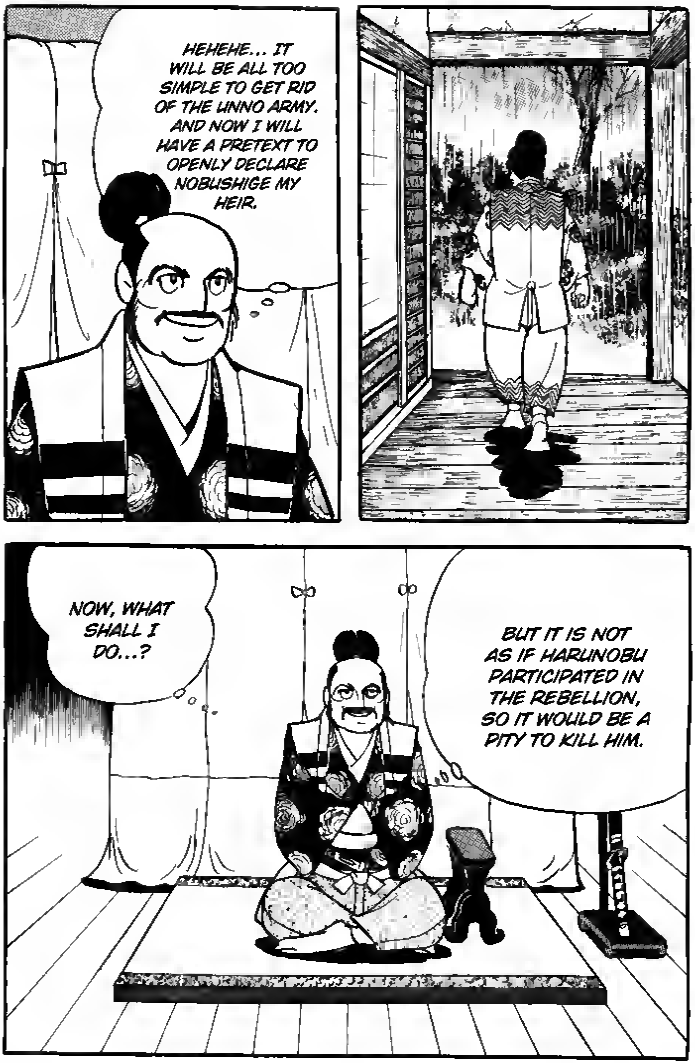
WHAT?
PLEASE WAIT, MY LORD. THE TRUTH IS, WE HAVE SOME UNPLEASANT NEWS.
IF A CIVIL WAR BREAKS OUT HERE, THE SHINANO ARMY WILL USE THIS CHANCE TO INVADE KAI.
WHAT? MUNETSUNA?
IT APPEARS THAT UNNO OF CHIISAGATA HAS BEEN UNUSUALLY ACTIVE LATELY.
WELL SAID, NOBUSHIGE.
FATHER, I SHALL DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE REBELS. YOU MUST PREPARE YOURSELF AGAINST THE ENEMY.

YES, MY LORD.
VERY WELL, I SHALL PREPARE AGAINST CHIISA-GATA NOBUSHIGE, YOU TAKE THE HEADS OF THE REBELS
HAHAHAHA! SOON I WILL HAVE A TOAST WITH THEIR BLOODY HEADS BEFORE ME!

SO, YOU WANT ME TO RUN TO CHIISAGATA, AND SPREAD RUMORS THAT LORD HARUNOBU WAS PRESSURED BY THE FORMER MAGISTRATES TO REVOLT AGAINST LORD NOBUTORA?

YES, SIR.
YES. SPREAD THEM WITH VIGOR.
Itagaki Nobukata's spy ran to Chiisagata within the day.

YES, MY LORD.
WHAT? UNNO MUNETSUNA HAS MOBILIZED THREE THOUSAND MEN?
Three days later...
THEY HEARD THAT LORD HARUNOBU AND THE FORMER MAGISTRATES ARE STARTING A REBELLION, AND HAVE JUST GONE ON THE MOVE.
I SEE. GOOD WORK. BLOW THE CONCH AND HAVE OUR MEN SET OUT AT ONCE.

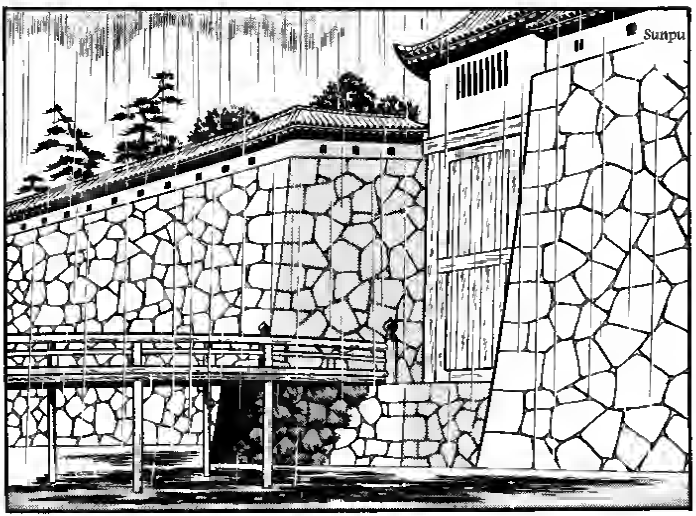

HEHEHE... IT WILL BE ALL TOO SIMPLE TO GET RID OF THE UNNO ARMY. AND NOW I WILL HAVE A PRETEXT TO OPENLY DECLARE NOBUSHIGE MY HEIR.
NOW, WHAT SHALL I DO...?
BUT IT IS NOT AS IF HARUNOBU PARTICIPATED IN THE REBELLION, SO IT WOULD BE A PITY TO KILL HIM.

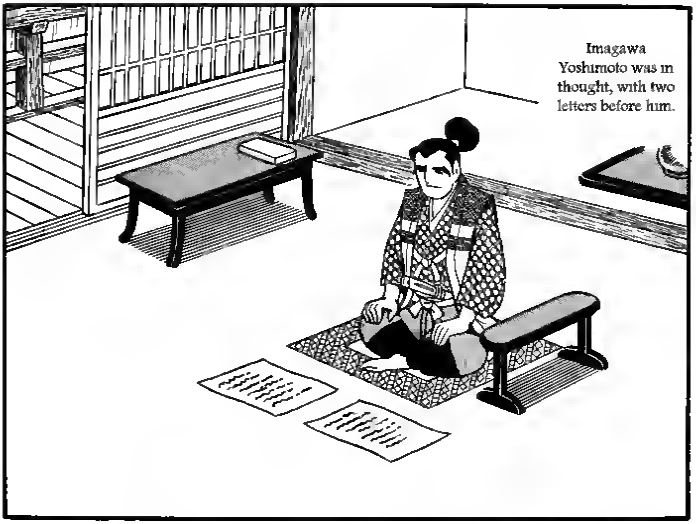
TAKEDA SHINGEN

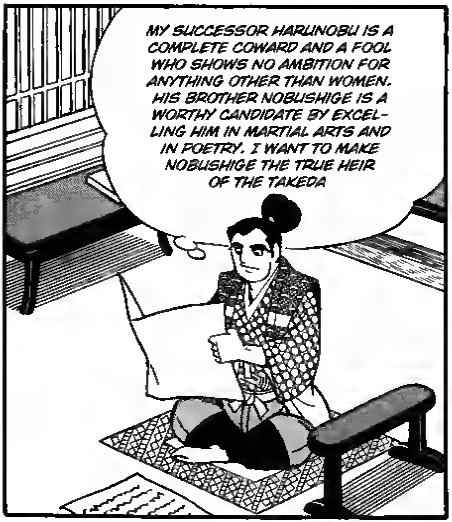
TRANSLATED BY SYSTEMATICCHAOS
PROOFREADING BY ANGELOFCHAOTIX
CLEANED BY WRIGHT
TYPESETTING BY ANI
QC BY KAZUHIKO

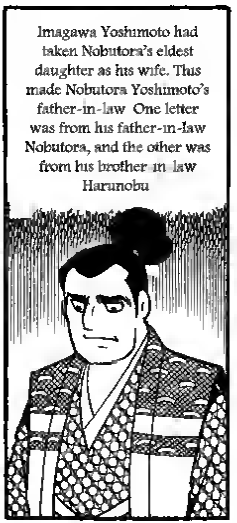
CHAPTER 5

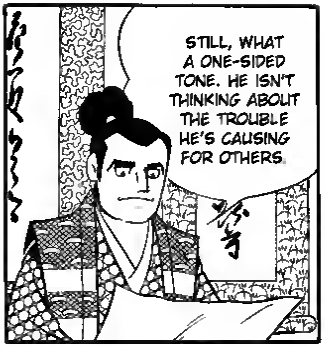
CHAPTER 6: YAMAMOTO KANSUKE

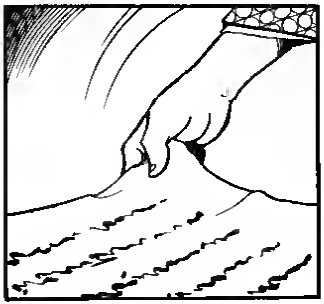


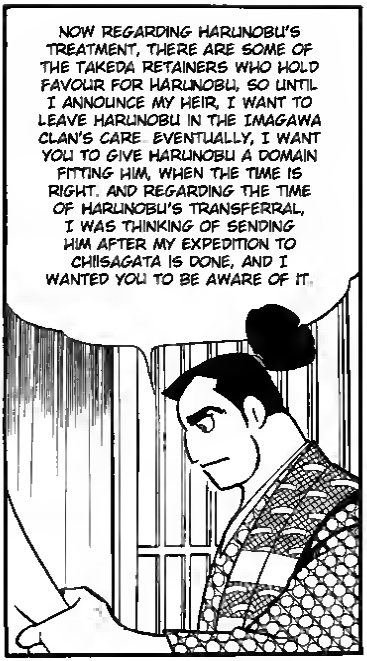

Imagawa Yoshimoto was in thought, with two letters before him.

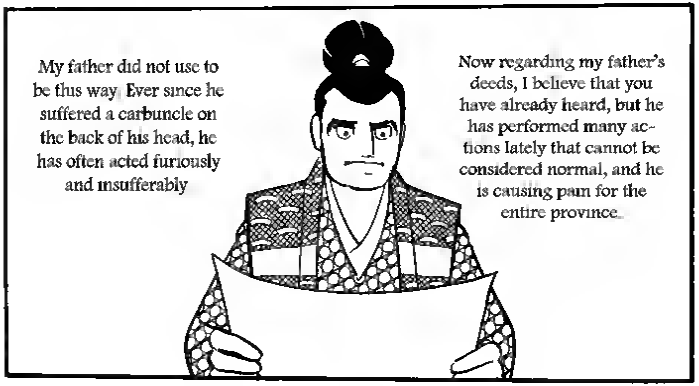

MY SUCCESSOR HARUNOBU IS A COMPLETE COWARD AND A FOOL WHO SHOWS NO AMBITION FOR ANYTHING OTHER THAN WOMEN. HIS BROTHER NOBUSHIGE IS A WORTHY CANDIDATE BY EXCELLING HIM IN MARTIAL ARTS AND IN POETRY. I WANT TO MAKE NOBUSHIGE THE TRUE HEIR OF THE TAKEDA


Imagawa Yoshimoto had taken Nobutora's eldest daughter as his wife. This made Nobutora Yoshimoto's father-in-law. One letter was from his father-in-law Nobutora, and the other was from his brother-in-law Harunobu


STILL, WHAT A ONE-SIDED TONE. HE ISN'T THINKING ABOUT THE TROUBLE HE'S CAUSING FOR OTHERS.



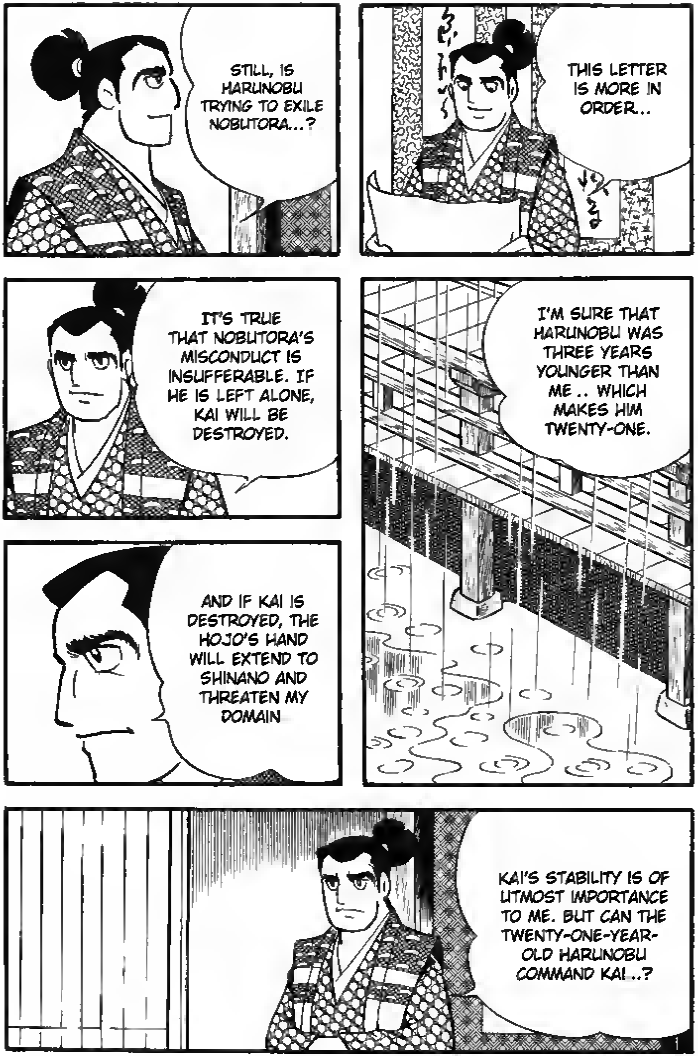

NOW REGARDING HARUNOBU'S TREATMENT, THERE ARE SOME OF THE TAKEDA RETAINERS WHO HOLD FAVOUR FOR HARUNOBU, SO UNTIL I ANNOUNCE MY HEIR, I WANT TO LEAVE HARUNOBU IN THE IMAGAWA CLAN'S CARE EVENTUALLY, I WANT YOU TO GIVE HARUNOBU A DOMAIN FITTING HIM, WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT. AND REGARDING THE TIME OF HARUNOBU'S TRANSFERRAL, I WAS THINKING OF SENDING HIM AFTER MY EXPEDITION TO CHIISAGATA IS DONE, AND I WANTED YOU TO BE AWARE OF IT.

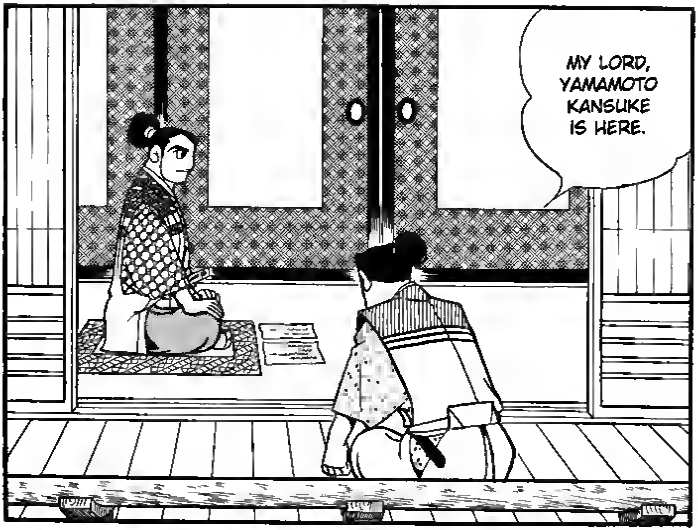

My father did not use to be this way. Ever since he suffered a carbuncle on the back of his head, he has often acted furiously and insufferably
Now regarding my father's deeds, I believe that you have already heard, but he has performed many actions lately that cannot be considered normal, and he is causing pain for the entire province.

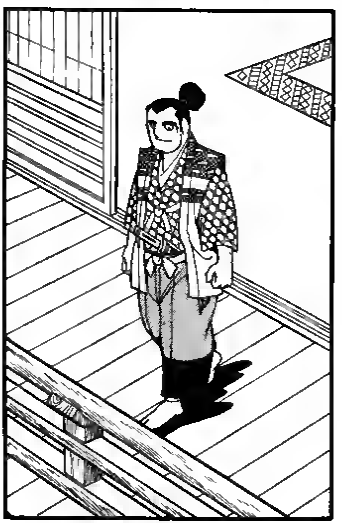
I believe it would be disastrous to leave him in his current state, so I have been discussing with Itagaki Nobukata and the other elders, and seeing as how there are no good doctors in the borderlands of Kai, we have come to the conclusion that the best conclusion would be to send my father to your domain, where there are many good doctors

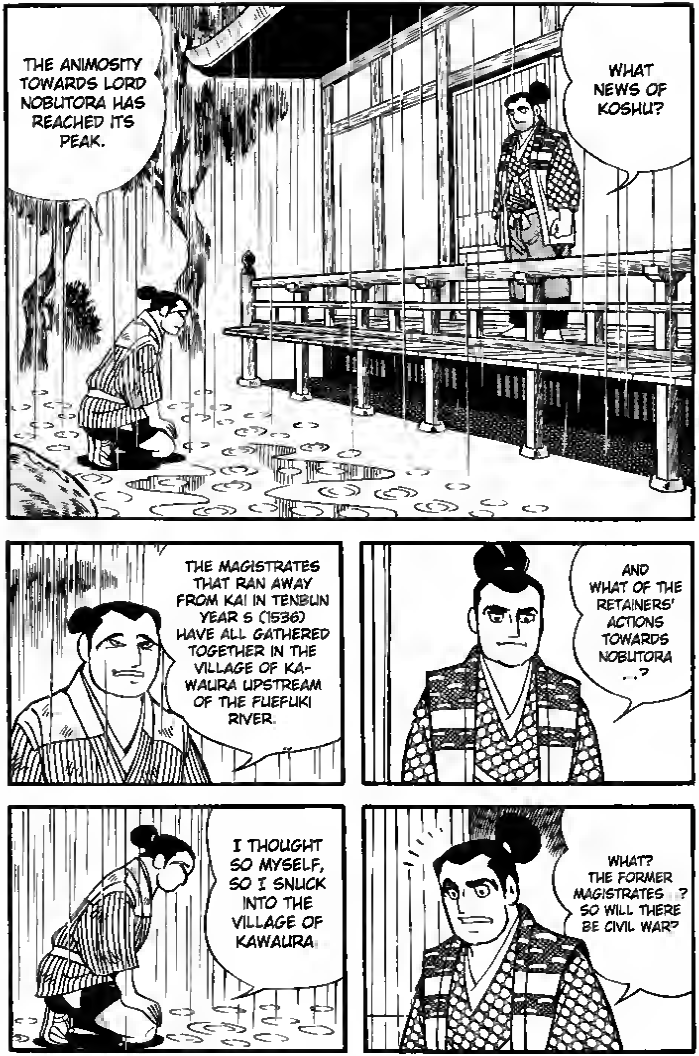
I AM DEEPLY SORRY TO SUDDENLY IMPOSE ON YOU LIKE THIS, BUT THE ENTIRE TAKEDA CLAN WISHES THAT YOU WOULD HEAR US WITH THE GOODWILL OF AN ALLIED PROVINCE.

DUE TO THE AFOREMENTIONED CIRCUMSTANCES, I WOULD LIKE TO LEAVE MY FATHER IN YOUR CARE FOR A WHILE. I WILL OFFER YOU A THOUSAND RYO OF KOSHU GOLD. AS FOR WHEN TO TRANSFER MY FATHER, I WOULD LIKE TO SEND HIM OVER AFTER HIS EXPEDITION TO CHIISAGATA. WOULD THAT BE WELL WITH YOU?


STILL, IS HARUNOBU TRYING TO EXILE NOBUTORA...?
THIS LETTER IS MORE IN ORDER...
IT'S TRUE THAT NOBUTORA'S MISCONDUCT IS INSUFFERABLE. IF HE IS LEFT ALONE, KAI WILL BE DESTROYED.
I'M SURE THAT HARUNOBU WAS THREE YEARS YOUNGER THAN ME .. WHICH MAKES HIM TWENTY-ONE.
AND IF KAI IS DESTROYED, THE HOJO'S HAND WILL EXTEND TO SHINANO AND THREATEN MY DOMAIN
KAI'S STABILITY IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO ME. BUT CAN THE TWENTY-ONE-YEAR-OLD HARUNOBU COMMAND KAI ..?


MY LORD, YAMAMOTO KANSUKE IS HERE.

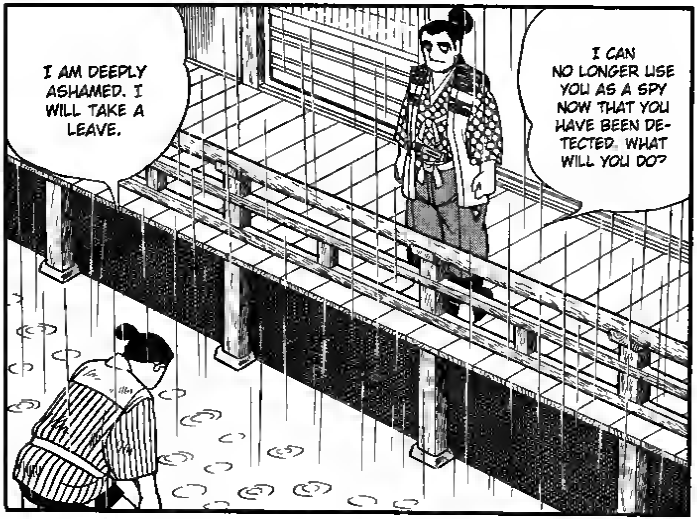


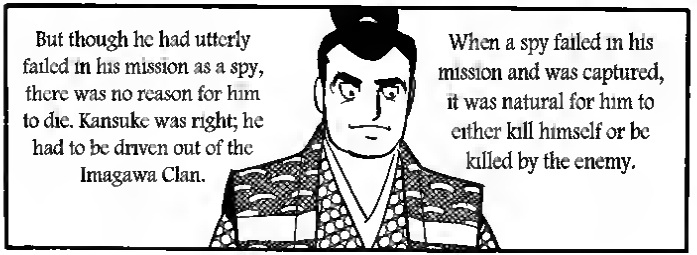

THE ANIMOSITY TOWARDS LORD NOBUTORA HAS REACHED ITS PEAK.
WHAT NEWS OF KOSHU?
THE MAGISTRATES THAT RAN AWAY FROM KAI IN TENBUN YEAR 5 (1536) HAVE ALL GATHERED TOGETHER IN THE VILLAGE OF KAWAURA UPSTREAM OF THE FUEFUKI RIVER.
AND WHAT OF THE RETAINERS' ACTIONS TOWARDS NOBUTORA...?
I THOUGHT SO MYSELF, SO I SNUCK INTO THE VILLAGE OF KAWAURA.
WHAT? THE FORMER MAGISTRATES...? SO WILL THERE BE CIVIL WAR?

WHAT? HARUNOBU... THEN WHAT?
AND WHEN I DID, LORD HARUNOBU CAME.
AT THEIR MEETING, LORD HARUNOBU DISCOVERED THAT I WAS A SPY AND CAPTURED ME.
W-WHAT?
BUT LORD HARUNOBU REFUSED THEIR SUGGESTION OF REBELLION
BUT HE SET ME FREE AS I WAS TOO SPECIAL TO KILL...
WHAT? CAPTURED YOU?

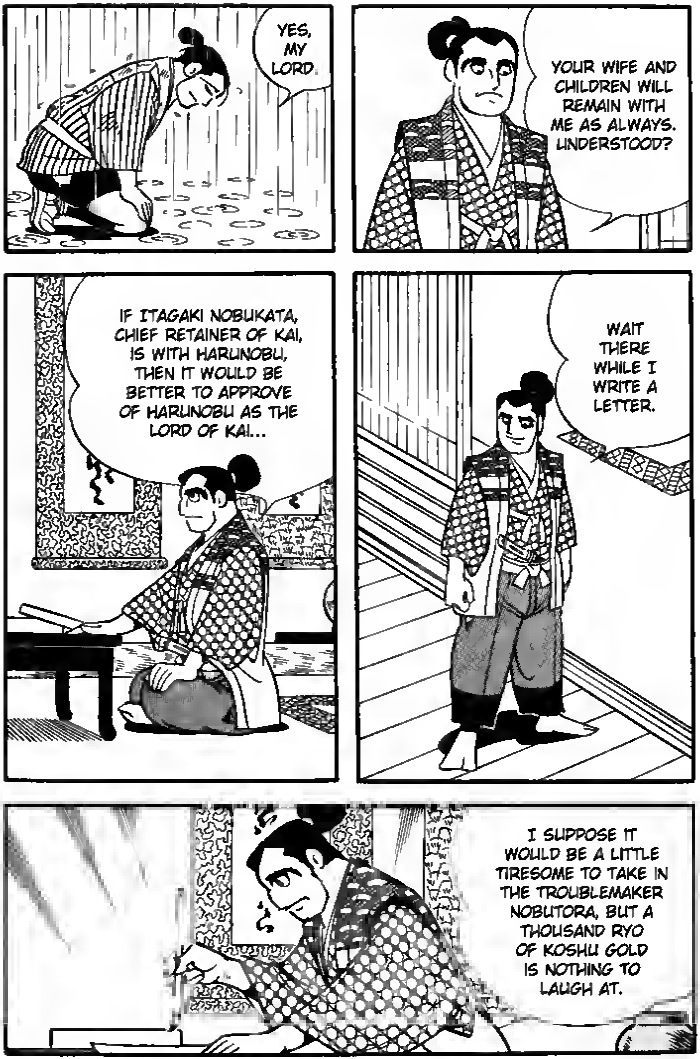
YES, MY LORD.
HE SET YOU FREE WITHOUT ANY DEMANDS?
HE THOUGHT I WAS A SPY OF SURUGA OR SAGAMI, SO HE ONLY ASKED ME TO REPORT THAT HARUNOBU IS NOT SO FOOLISH AS TO REBEL AGAINST HIS FATHER.
YES, MY LORD.
HE SAID HE THOUGHT YOU WERE A SPY OF SURUGA OR SAGAMI?

IT SEEMS THAT HARUNOBU IS NOT A STRAIGHT FORWARD MAN.
HE MUST HAVE EXPECTED THAT HE WAS MY SPY, SO WHILE HE SAID WITH HIS MOUTH HE DOES NOT INTEND TO REBEL, HE SENT ME A LETTER OPENLY TELLING ME OF HIS PLANS TO EXILE NOBUTORA.

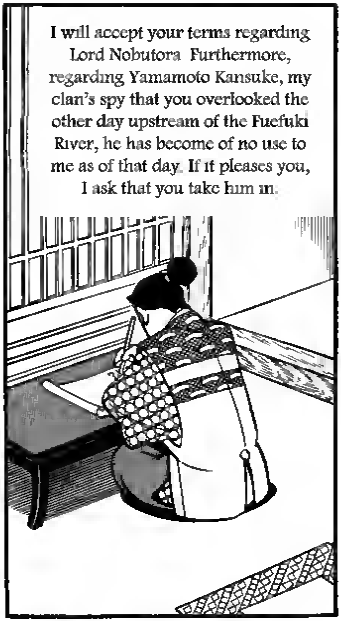

I AM DEEPLY ASHAMED. I WILL TAKE A LEAVE.
I CAN NO LONGER USE YOU AS A SPY NOW THAT YOU HAVE BEEN DETECTED. WHAT WILL YOU DO?

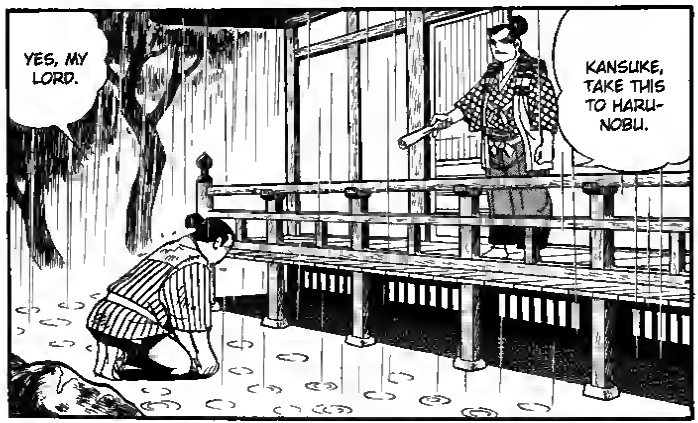

But though he had utterly failed in his mission as a spy, there was no reason for him to die. Kansuke was right; he had to be driven out of the Imagawa Clan.
When a spy failed in his mission and was captured, it was natural for him to either kill himself or be killed by the enemy.

I KNOW!
BUT HE IS A SHARP ONE... IT WOULD BE A PITY TO LET HIM GO.
YOU WANT ME TO GO TO HARUNOBU...?
KANSUKE, YOU TAKE MY LETTER AND GO TO HARUNOBU'S PLACE. I WILL WRITE A REFERRAL TO HARUNOBU FOR YOU.
YES. YOU WILL PUBLICLY BECOME A TAKEDA RETAINER, BUT YOU WILL INFORM ME OF ANY NEWS OF THE TAKEDA.

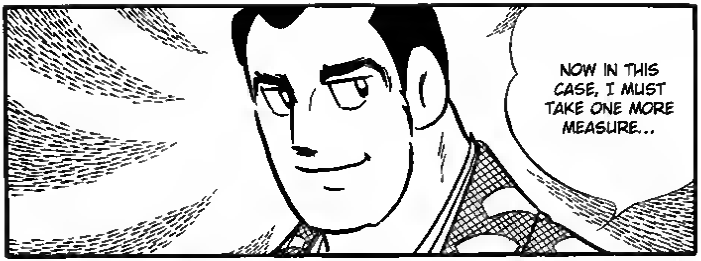

YES, MY LORD.
YOUR WIFE AND CHILDREN WILL REMAIN WITH ME AS ALWAYS. UNDERSTOOD?
IF ITAGAKI NOBUKATA, CHIEF RETAINER OF KAI, IS WITH HARUNOBU, THEN IT WOULD BE BETTER TO APPROVE OF HARUNOBU AS THE LORD OF KAI...
WAIT THERE WHILE I WRITE A LETTER.
I SUPPOSE IT WOULD BE A LITTLE TIRESOME TO TAKE IN THE TROUBLEMAKER NOBUTORA, BUT A THOUSAND RYO OF KOSHU GOLD IS NOTHING TO LAUGH AT.

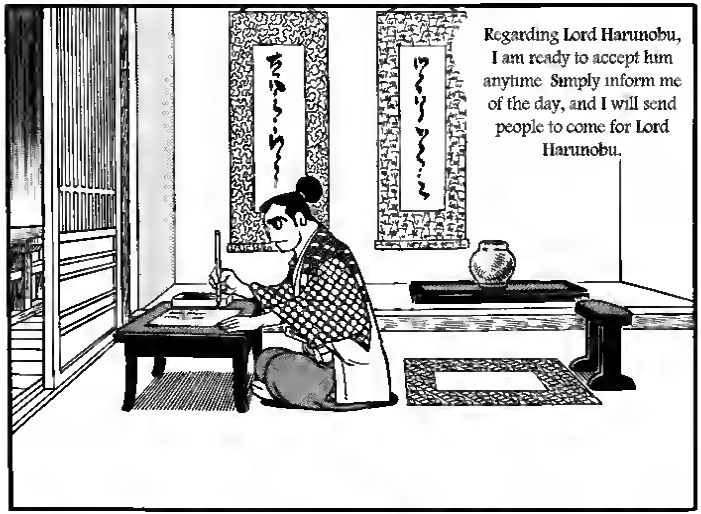
THAT SHOULD DO IT.


I will accept your terms regarding Lord Nobutora. Furthermore, regarding Yamamoto Kansuke, my clan's spy that you overlooked the other day upstream of the Fuefuki River, he has become of no use to me as of that day. If it pleases you, I ask that you take him in.

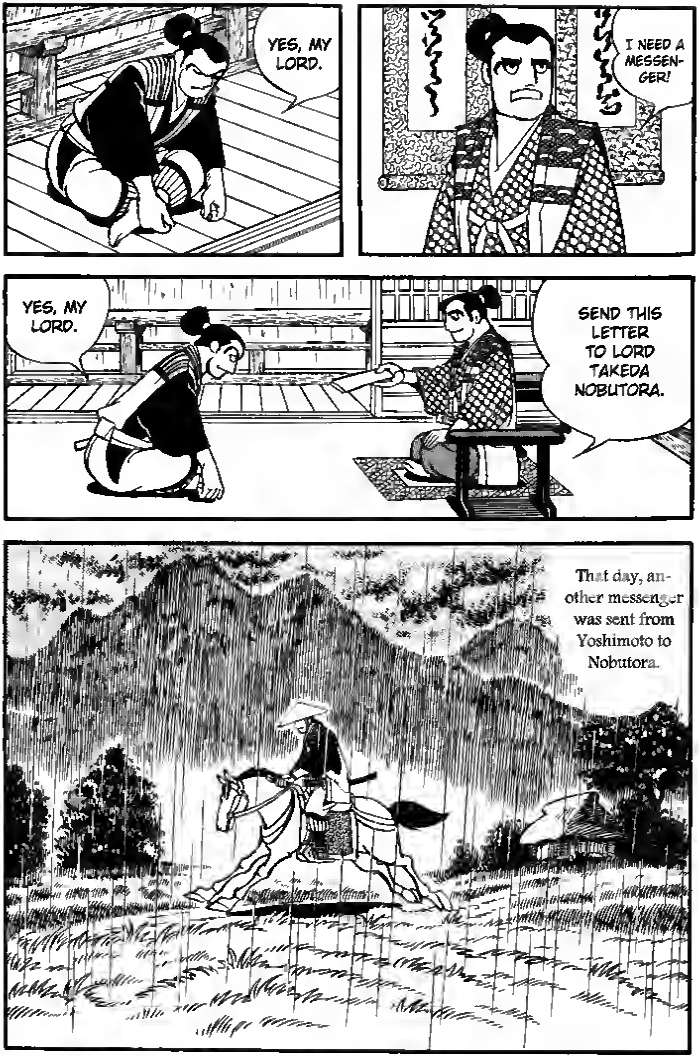

YES, MY LORD.
KANSUKE, TAKE THIS TO HARU-NOBU.

THIS DUTY MAY BE HARD, BUT WHILE YOU ARE IN THE TAKEDA CAMP, I WILL BE ABLE TO REST EASY. I EXPECT THAT KAI WILL BECOME THE IMAGAWA'S DOMAIN IN ABOUT FIVE YEARS. AND WHEN IT IS, I WILL GIVE YOU A SUITABLE REWARD.
THEN I BEG YOUR LEAVE...
UNDER-STOOD.
Kansuke's back was burdened with the sorrow of having to live as a double agent.

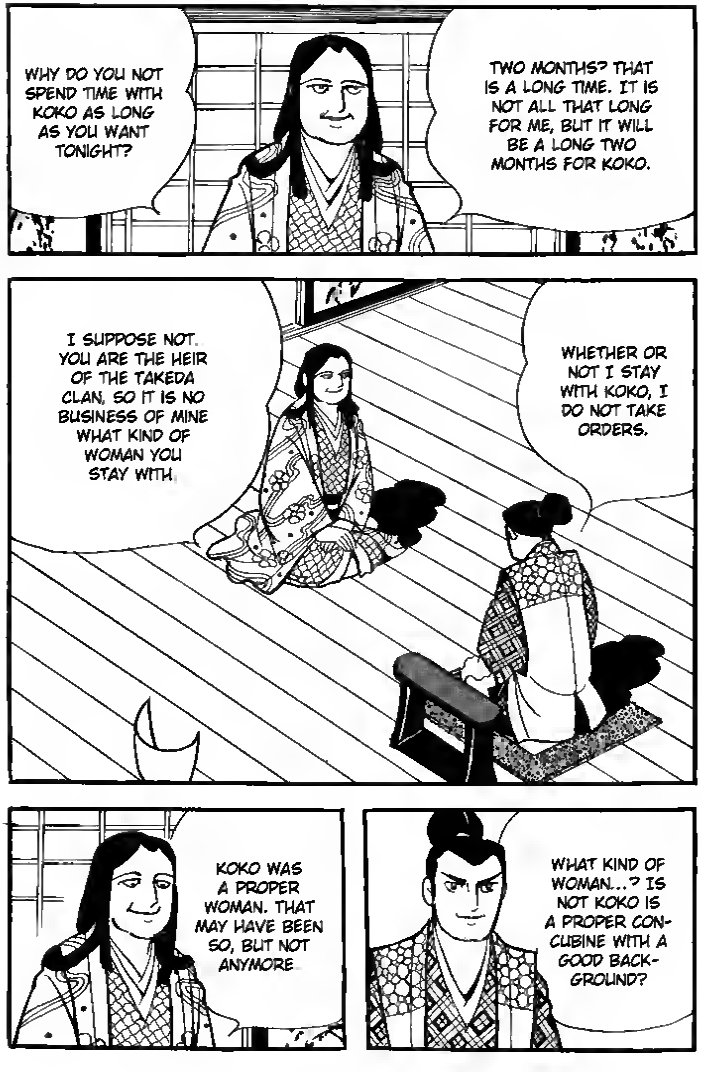

NOW IN THIS CASE, I MUST TAKE ONE MORE MEASURE...

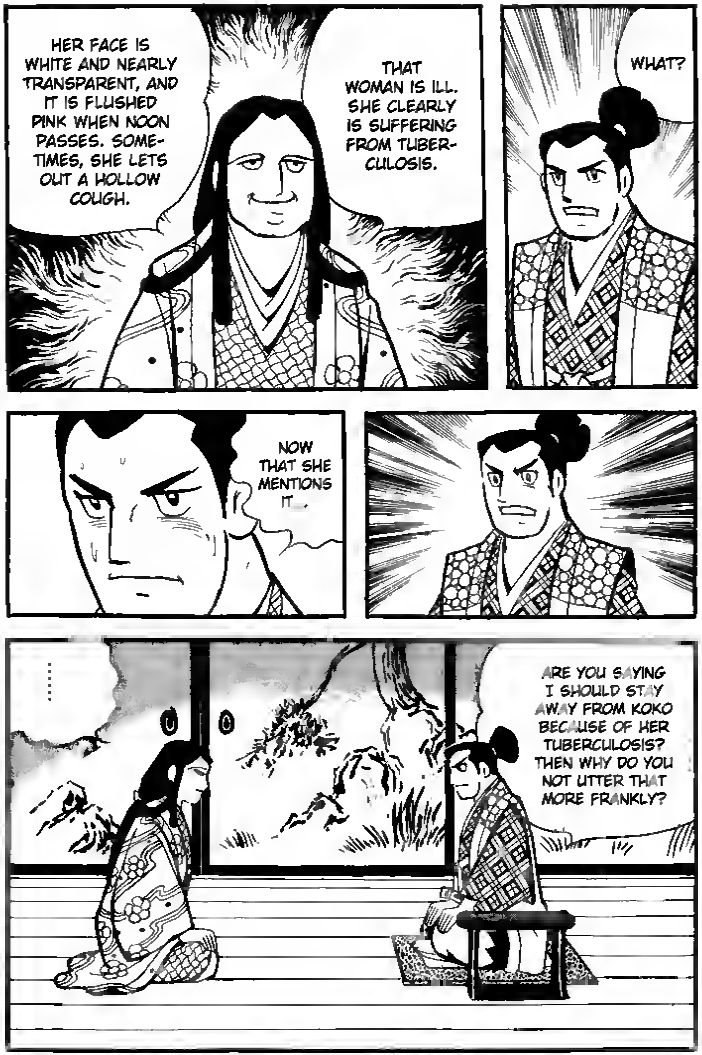

Regarding Lord Harunobu, I am ready to accept him anytime. Simply inform me of the day, and I will send people to come for Lord Harunobu.

THAT SHOULD DO IT.


YES, MY LORD.
I NEED A MESSENGER!
YES, MY LORD.
SEND THIS LETTER TO LORD TAKEDA NOBUTORA.
That day, another messenger was sent from Yoshimoto to Nobutora.

Tsutsuji
ga Saki
Estate
YES. BUT THE WAR IN CHIISAGATA WILL SOON BE OVER. IT WILL LAST TWO MONTHS, AT MOST.
WILL YOU BE LEAVING FOR WAR TOMORROW MORNING?


WHY DO YOU NOT SPEND TIME WITH KOKO AS LONG AS YOU WANT TONIGHT?
TWO MONTHS? THAT IS A LONG TIME. IT IS NOT ALL THAT LONG FOR ME, BUT IT WILL BE A LONG TWO MONTHS FOR KOKO.
I SUPPOSE NOT. YOU ARE THE HEIR OF THE TAKEDA CLAN, SO IT IS NO BUSINESS OF MINE WHAT KIND OF WOMAN YOU STAY WITH.
WHETHER OR NOT I STAY WITH KOKO, I DO NOT TAKE ORDERS.
KOKO WAS A PROPER WOMAN. THAT MAY HAVE BEEN SO, BUT NOT ANYMORE.
WHAT KIND OF WOMAN...? IS NOT KOKO IS A PROPER CONCUBINE WITH A GOOD BACKGROUND?


HER FACE IS WHITE AND NEARLY TRANSPARENT, AND IT IS FLUSHED PINK WHEN NOON PASSES. SOMETIMES, SHE LETS OUT A HOLLOW COUGH.
THAT WOMAN IS ILL. SHE CLEARLY IS SUFFERING FROM TUBERCULOSIS.
WHAT?
NOW THAT SHE MENTIONS IT...
.....
ARE YOU SAYING I SHOULD STAY AWAY FROM KOKO BECAUSE OF HER TUBERCULOSIS? THEN WHY DO YOU NOT UTTER THAT MORE FRANKLY?

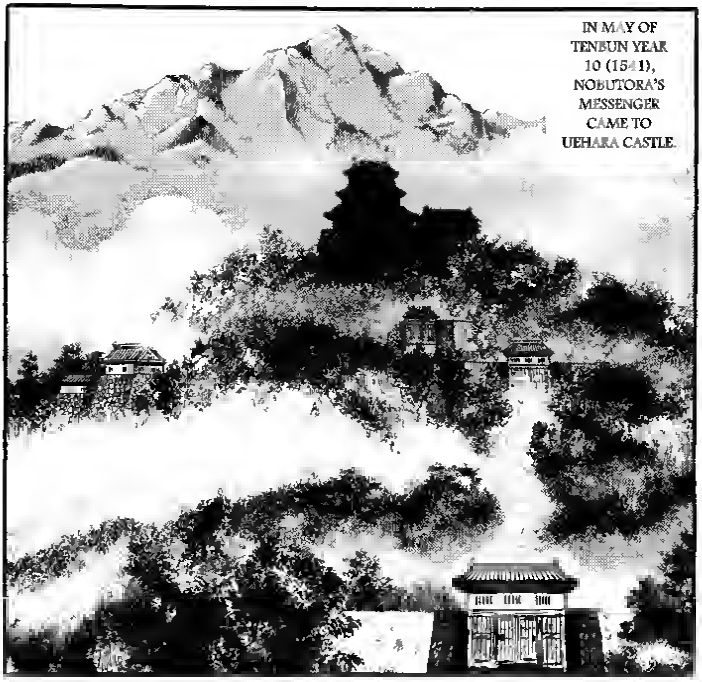
NO SOONER DO YOU SAY I SHOULD SPEND THE NIGHT WITH KOKO BECAUSE IT WILL BE A LONG TWO MONTHS FOR HER, THAN YOU SLANDER HER FOR HAVING TUBERCULOSIS! I CANNOT BELIEVE THESE ARE THE WORDS OF A CULTURED COURT WOMAN OF KYOTO!
I'M GOING TO MY ROOM!
OH, MY!

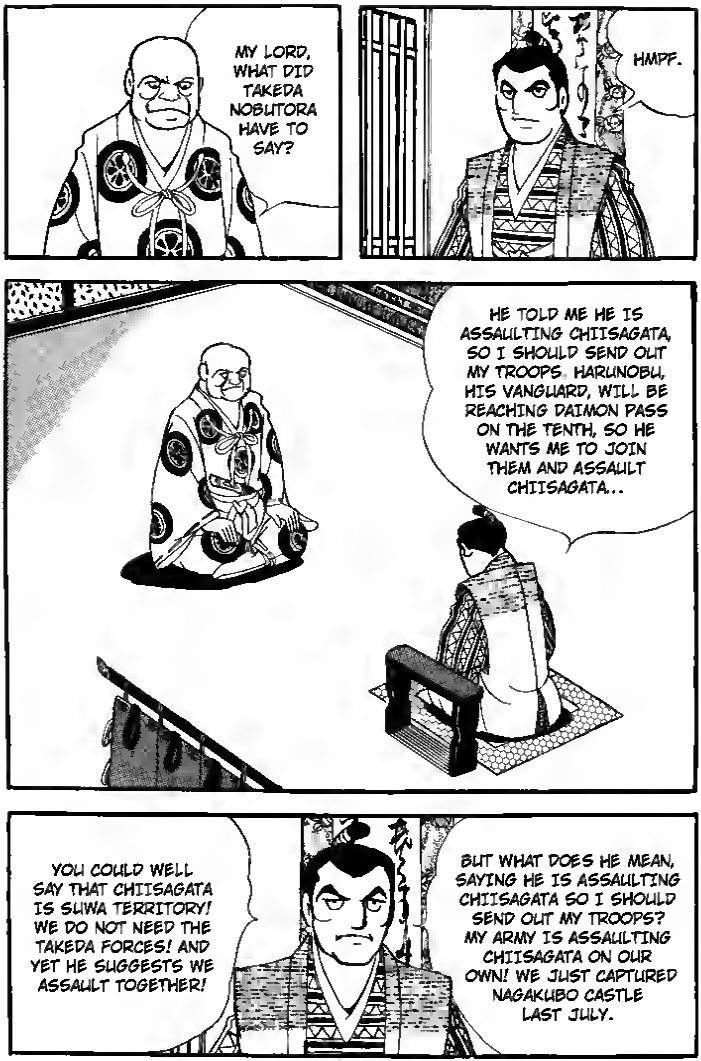
TAKEDA SHINGEN

TRANSLATED BY SYSTEMATICCHAOS
PROOFREADING BY ANGELOFCHAOTIX
CLEANED BY WRIGHT
TYPESETTING BY ANI
QC BY KAZUHIKO

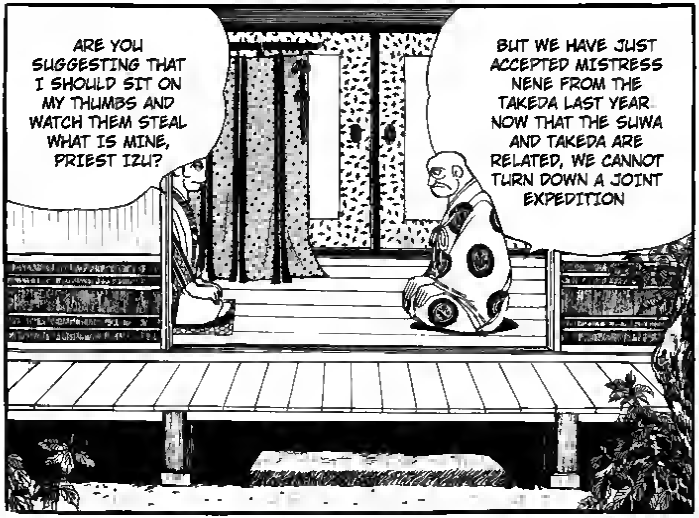
CHAPTER 6

CHAPTER 7: THE CHIISAGATA CAMPAIGN

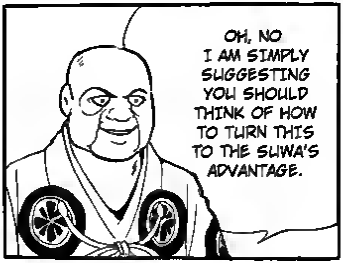

IN MAY OF
TENBUN YEAR
10 (1541),
NOBUTORA'S
MESSENGER
CAME TO
UEHARA CASTLE.

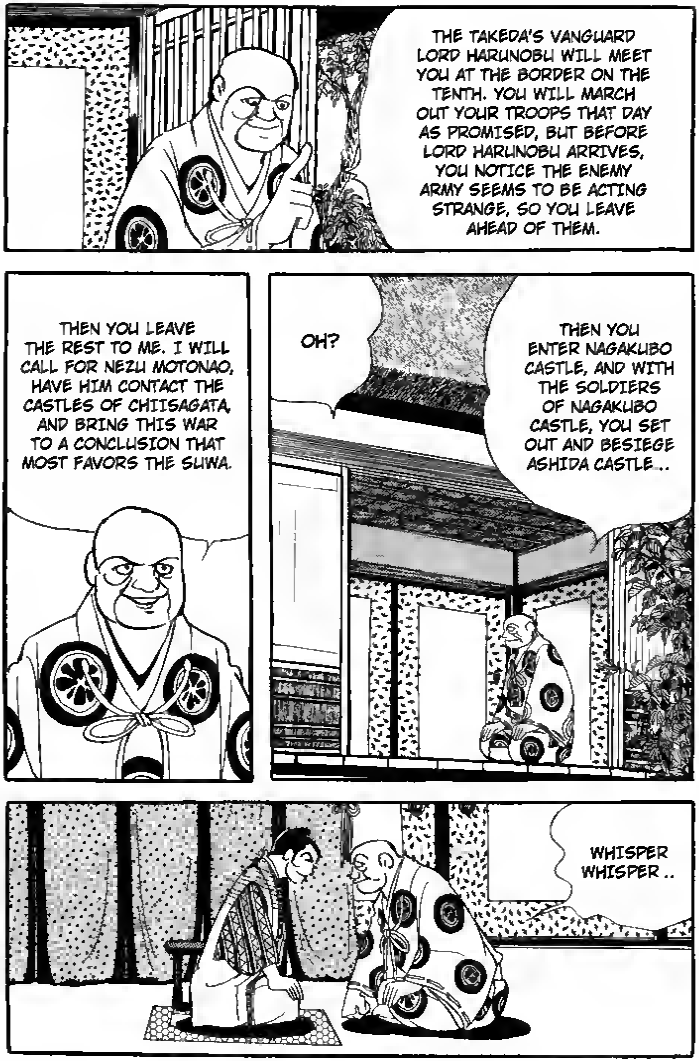

MY LORD, WHAT DID TAKEDA NOBUTORA HAVE TO SAY?
HMPF.
HE TOLD ME HE IS ASSAULTING CHIISAGATA, SO I SHOULD SEND OUT MY TROOPS. HARUNOBU, HIS VANGUARD, WILL BE REACHING DAIMON PASS ON THE TENTH, SO HE WANTS ME TO JOIN THEM AND ASSAULT CHIISAGATA...
YOU COULD WELL SAY THAT CHIISAGATA IS SUWA TERRITORY! WE DO NOT NEED THE TAKEDA FORCES! AND YET HE SUGGESTS WE ASSAULT TOGETHER!
BUT WHAT DOES HE MEAN, SAYING HE IS ASSAULTING CHIISAGATA SO I SHOULD SEND OUT MY TROOPS? MY ARMY IS ASSAULTING CHIISAGATA ON OUR OWN! WE JUST CAPTURED NAGAKUBO CASTLE LAST JULY.

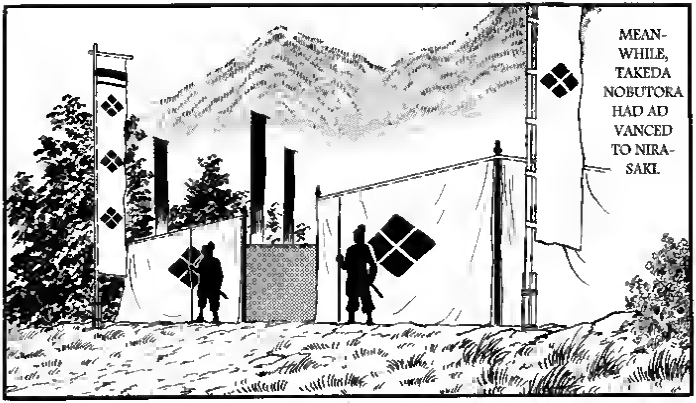
THAT IS INDEED TRUE.
HE MUST BE PLANNING ON SNATCHING WHAT WE RIGHTFULLY CONQUERED. CAN HE BE ANY MORE SHAMELESS?

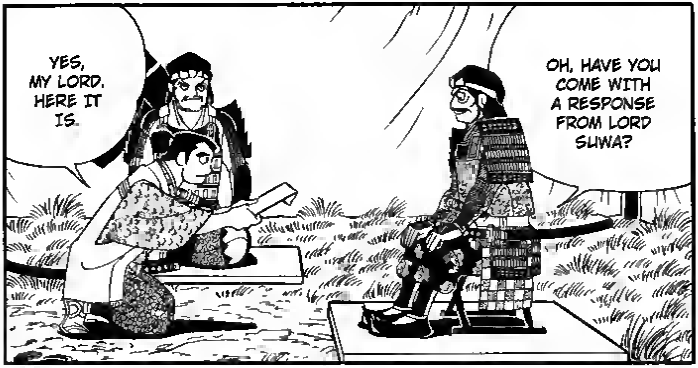

ARE YOU SUGGESTING THAT I SHOULD SIT ON MY THUMBS AND WATCH THEM STEAL WHAT IS MINE, PRIEST IZU?
BUT WE HAVE JUST ACCEPTED MISTRESS NENE FROM THE TAKEDA LAST YEAR NOW THAT THE SUWA AND TAKEDA ARE RELATED, WE CANNOT TURN DOWN A JOINT EXPEDITION

DO YOU HAVE ANY SUGGES-TIONS?


OH, NO I AM SIMPLY SUGGESTING YOU SHOULD THINK OF HOW TO TURN THIS TO THE SUWA'S ADVANTAGE.


THE TAKEDA'S VANGUARD LORD HARUNOBU WILL MEET YOU AT THE BORDER ON THE TENTH. YOU WILL MARCH OUT YOUR TROOPS THAT DAY AS PROMISED, BUT BEFORE LORD HARUNOBU ARRIVES, YOU NOTICE THE ENEMY ARMY SEEMS TO BE ACTING STRANGE, SO YOU LEAVE AHEAD OF THEM.
THEN YOU LEAVE THE REST TO ME. I WILL CALL FOR NEZU MOTONAO, HAVE HIM CONTACT THE CASTLES OF CHIISAGATA, AND BRING THIS WAR TO A CONCLUSION THAT MOST FAVORS THE SUWA.
OH?
THEN YOU ENTER NAGAKUBO CASTLE, AND WITH THE SOLDIERS OF NAGAKUBO CASTLE, YOU SET OUT AND BESIEGE ASHIDA CASTLE..
WHISPER WHISPER..


MEANWHILE, TAKEDA NOBUTORA HAD ADVANCED TO NIRASAKI.

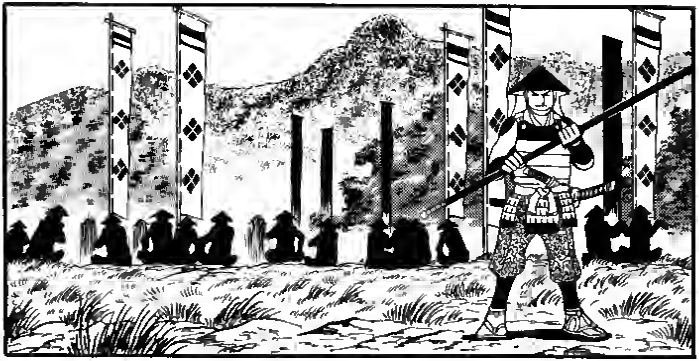

YES, MY LORD. HERE IT IS.
OH, HAVE YOU COME WITH A RESPONSE FROM LORD SUWA?

REPORTING IN!

HMM, HMM...

GOOD. SEND HIM HERE.
A MESSENGER FROM LORD IMAGAWA OF SURUGA HAS ARRIVED.
OH GOOD WORK.
I COME BEARING A LETTER FROM MY LORD.

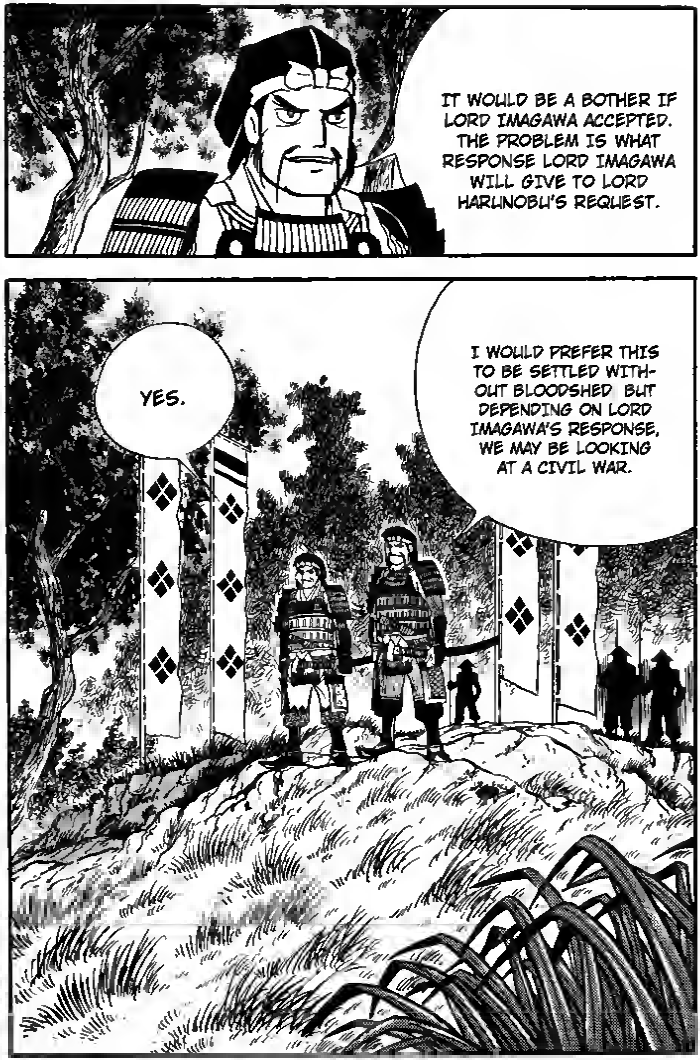
HERE IT IS.
YES, MY LORD.
GOOD WORK. GIVE YOUR LORD MY REGARDS.
HMM...
HEHEHEHE... LORD SUWA AND LORD IMAGAWA ARE SUCH GOOD SONS-IN-LAW.



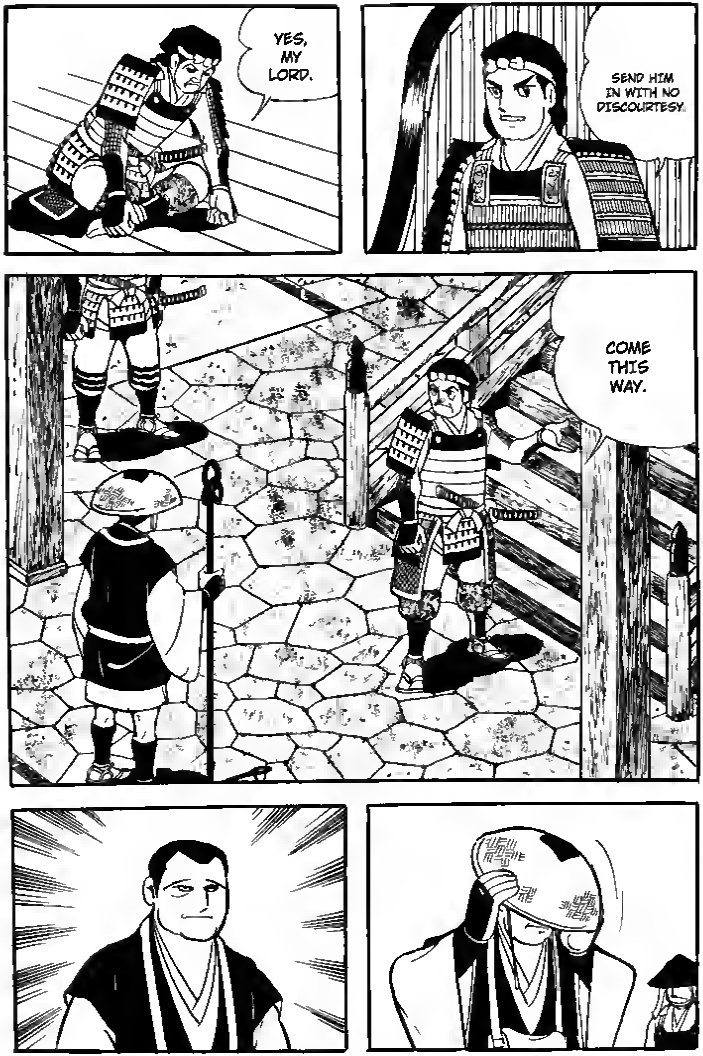
OH, SIR AMARI.
SIR ITAGAKI!

WE'VE JUST RECEIVED MESSENGERS FROM SUWA AND IMAGAWA.

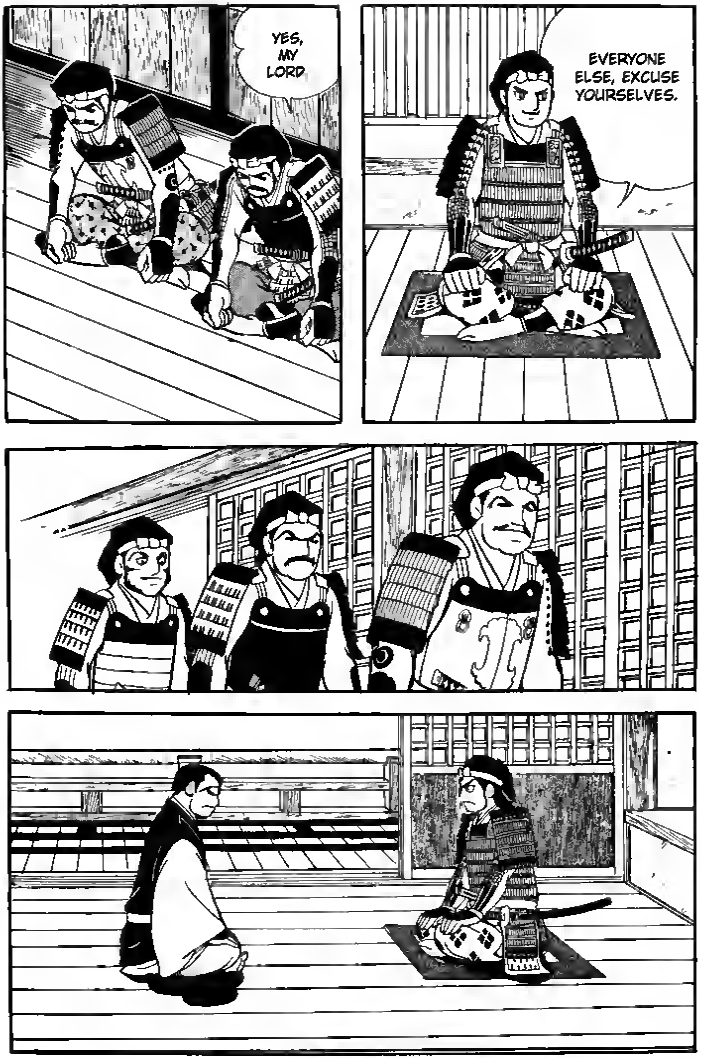
OH? A GOOD HUMOR?
THE MASTER WAS IN A VERY GOOD HUMOR, AND HE SAID THAT LORDS SUWA AND IMAGAWA ARE GOOD SONS-IN-LAW.
YOU THINK SO, TOO? THAT IS WHAT I THOUGHT...
I SUPPOSE SUWA'S LETTER SAID HE ASSENTED TO MARCHING ON CHIISAGATA, BUT I DO NOT KNOW WHAT IMAGAWA'S LETTER SAID... COULD IT BE ABOUT HARUNOBU...?
HUH?
I SUSPECT THAT THE MASTER HAS REQUESTED LORD IMAGAWA TO ENSURE LORD HARUNOBU'S EXILE.


IT WOULD BE A BOTHER IF LORD IMAGAWA ACCEPTED. THE PROBLEM IS WHAT RESPONSE LORD IMAGAWA WILL GIVE TO LORD HARUNOBU'S REQUEST.
I WOULD PREFER THIS TO BE SETTLED WITHOUT BLOODSHED BUT DEPENDING ON LORD IMAGAWA'S RESPONSE, WE MAY BE LOOKING AT A CIVIL WAR.
YES.

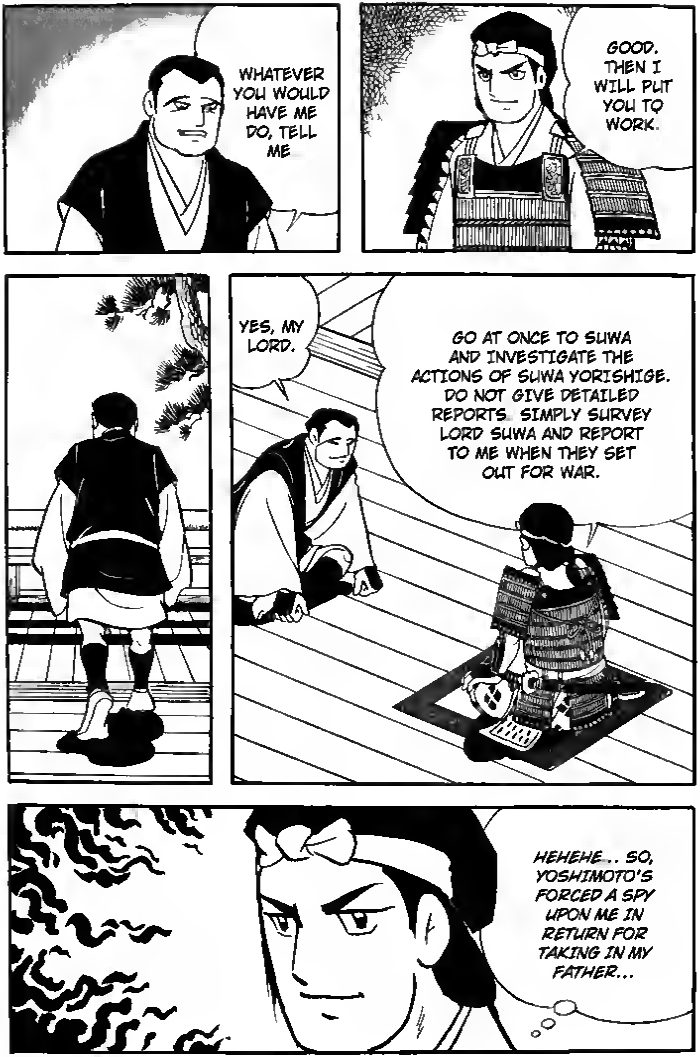
Harunobu had set up a provisional camp in a temple not far from Nobutora's camp.
THE SANJO CLAN?
YOUNG LORD, A PRIEST CLAIMING TO BE A MESSENGER OF THE SANJO CLAN HAS ARRIVED.

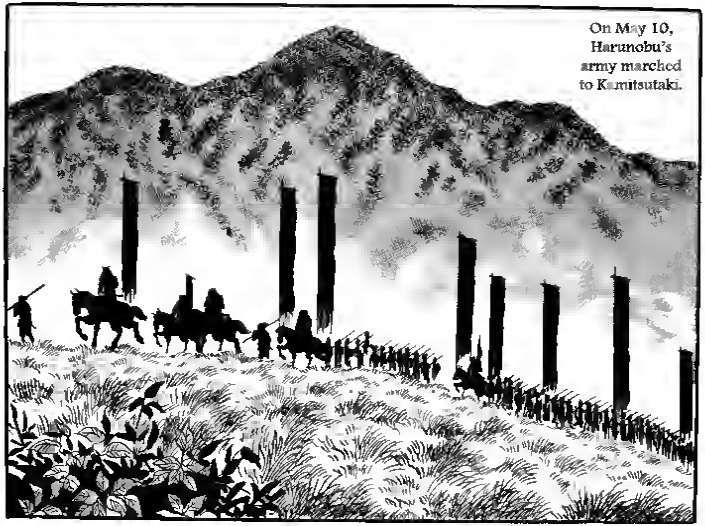

YES, MY LORD.
SEND HIM IN WITH NO DISCOURTESY.
COME THIS WAY.

I COME WITH A LETTER FROM THE SANJO CLAN
YES, MY LORD.
I COMMEND YOU FOR COMING ALL THIS WAY.


YES, MY LORD.
EVERYONE ELSE, EXCUSE YOURSELVES.

I SEE.
THIS IS THE LETTER.
YAMAMOTO KANSUKE
WHAT IS YOUR NAME?
YES, WITH MY LIFE.
LORD IMAGAWA ENDORSES YOU DO YOU INTEND TO SERVE ME?


WHATEVER YOU WOULD HAVE ME DO, TELL ME
GOOD. THEN I WILL PUT YOU TO WORK.
YES, MY LORD.
GO AT ONCE TO SUWA AND INVESTIGATE THE ACTIONS OF SUWA YORISHIGE. DO NOT GIVE DETAILED REPORTS. SIMPLY SURVEY LORD SUWA AND REPORT TO ME WHEN THEY SET OUT FOR WAR.
HEHEHE... SO, YOSHIMOTO'S FORCED A SPY UPON ME IN RETURN FOR TAKING IN MY FATHER...


On May 10, Harunobu's army marched to Kamitsutaki.

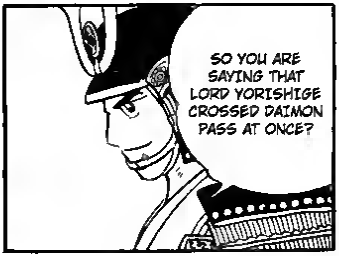
There, they were met with Suwa Yorishige's younger brother Yoritaka, and about fifty men with him.

I AM SUWA YORITAKA.
I APPRECIATE YOU COMING TO MEET ME.

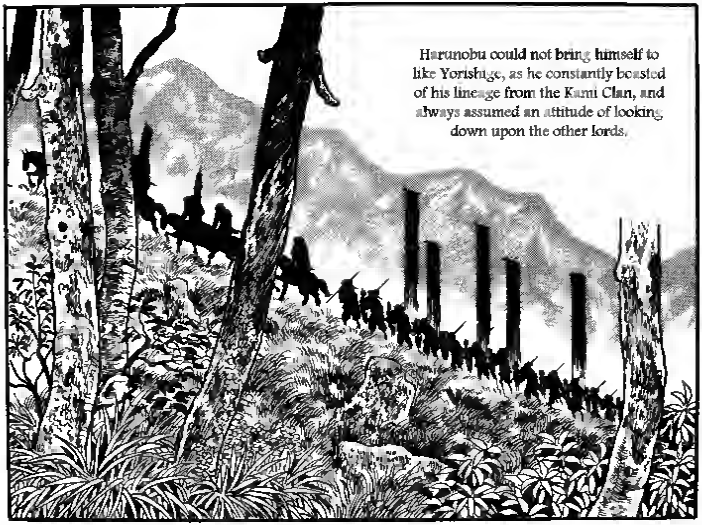
Y-YOU SEE, HE WAS PLANNING ON CROSSING DAIMON PASS AFTER JOINING YOU. BUT A MESSENGER CAME FROM NAGAKUBO CASTLE THIS MORNING, SAYING THAT SOMEONE IN NAGAKUBO CASTLE HAD DEFECTED TO THE ENEMY.

HOW FAR HAS LORD YORISHIGE'S ARMY COME?

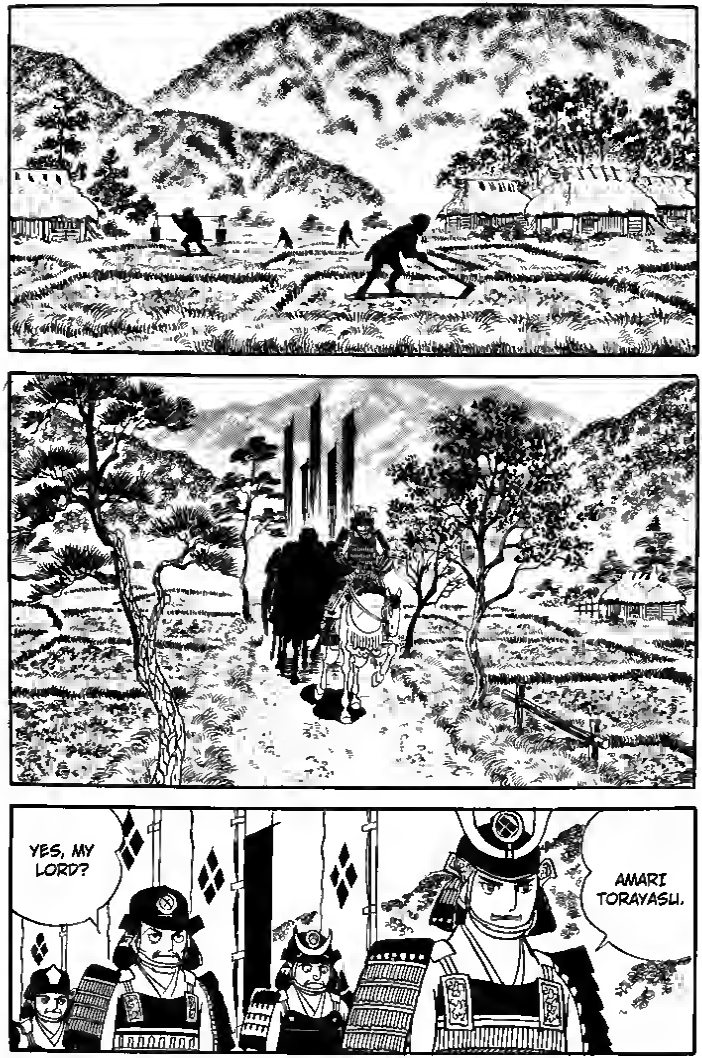
大明
THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT I AM SAYING.


SO YOU ARE SAYING THAT LORD YORISHIGE CROSSED DAIMON PASS AT ONCE?

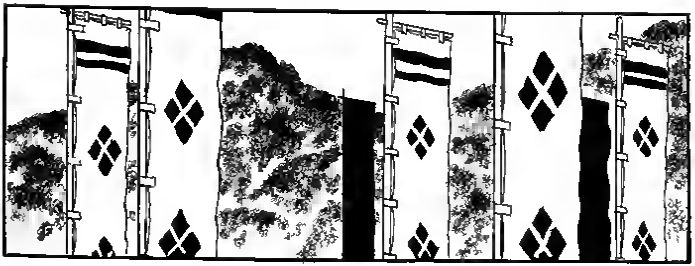
But Yorishige's strange actions had already been reported to Harunobu by his spies.
I SUPPOSE FLEXIBILITY IS CRUCIAL IN WAR. IF THAT IS WHAT HAPPENED, THEN THAT IS INEVITABLE.
YES, MY LORD.
THEN WE MUST MAKE HASTE SO THAT WE DO NOT FALL BEHIND LORD YORISHIGE. TELL ALL THIS TO MY FATHER WHEN HE COMES.
YES, MY LORD.
THEN WE SHALL BE OFF.

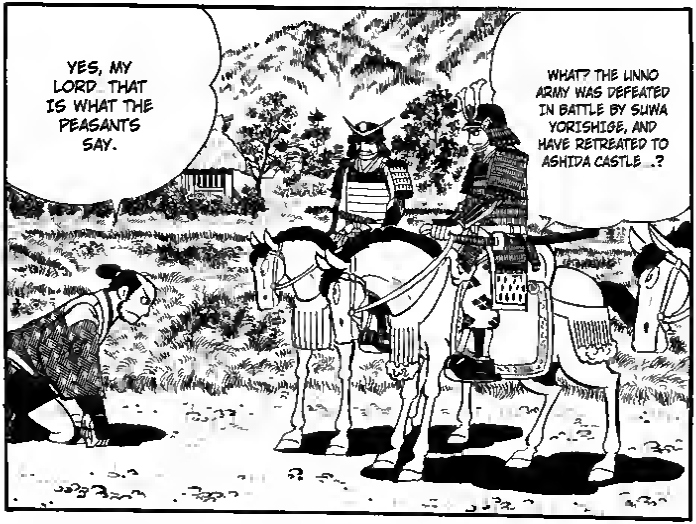

Harunobu could not bring himself to like Yorishige, as he constantly boasted of his lineage from the Kami Clan, and always assumed an attitude of looking down upon the other lords.

Once he came down Daimon Pass, the plains of Unno were before him.


YES, MY LORD?
AMARI TORAYASU.

YES, MY LORD. IT DOES SEEM A LITTLE STRANGE.
THE PEASANTS ARE LEISURELY IN THEIR WORK. THIS DOES NOT FEEL LIKE A WAR IS ABOUT TO BEGIN.
YES, MY LORD.
SEND SPIES TO SCOUT THE SITUATION.
Spies were sent at once in all directions.



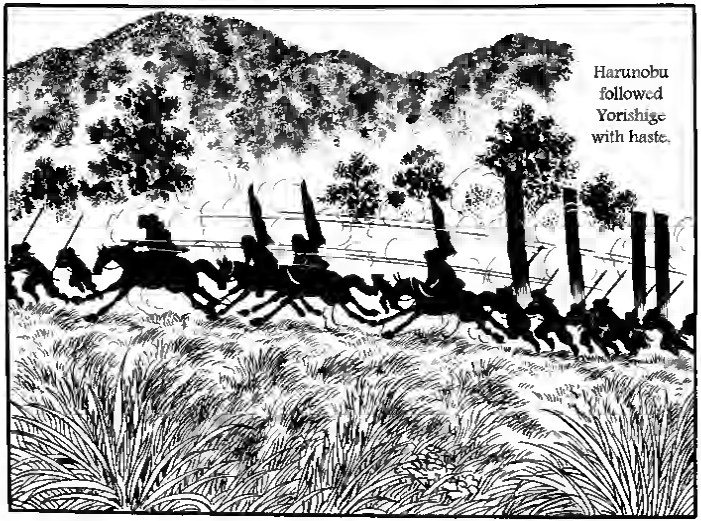

YES, MY LORD. THAT IS WHAT THE PEASANTS SAY.
WHAT? THE UNNO ARMY WAS DEFEATED IN BATTLE BY SUWA YORISHIGE, AND HAVE RETREATED TO ASHIDA CASTLE ..?

YES, MY LORD.

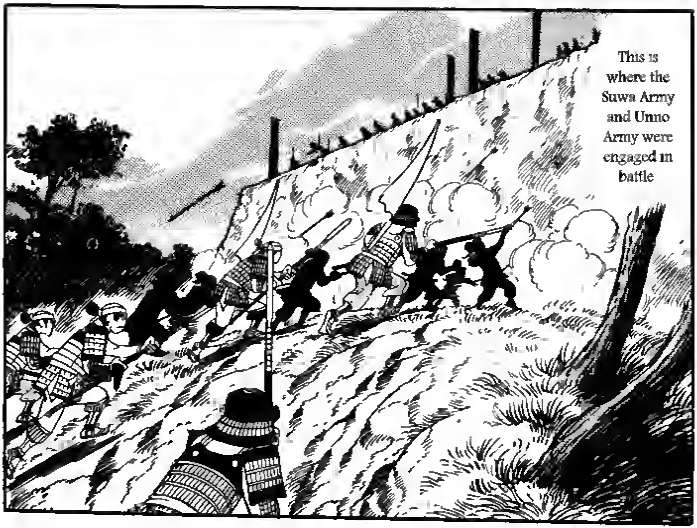
VERY WELL. CONTINUE SCOUTING THE AREA.

YES.
IT IS CERTAINLY STRANGE. BESIDES, IF AN ARMY OF A THOUSAND INVADES SO DEEPLY, THEY WOULD NOT LAST AN INSTANT IF THE ENEMY WERE TO COUNTER-ATTACK. WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO PURSUE LORD SUWA AT ONCE.

TORAYASU, I CANNOT BELIEVE THAT UNNO MUNETSUNA WOULD WITHDRAW HIS FORCES SO SIMPLY. DO YOU NOT FIND THIS ODD?


Harunobu followed Yorishige with haste.

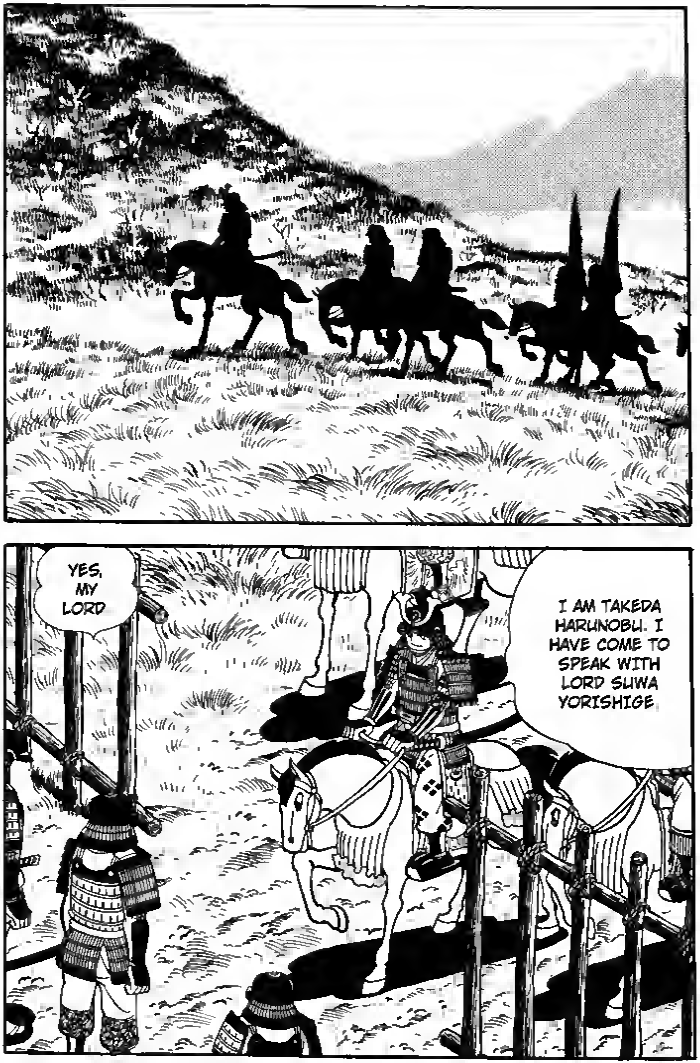
ASHIDA CASTLE


This is where the Suwa Army and Unno Army were engaged in battle

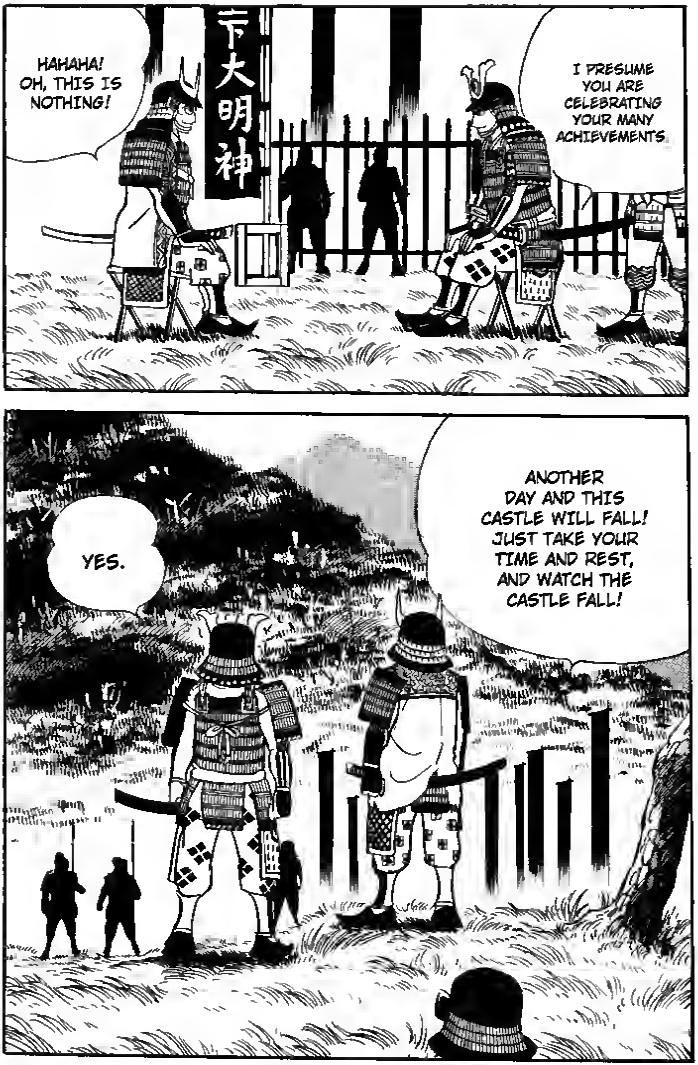
THEY NEED OUR AID.
SO IT WILL NOT FALL WITH THEIR FORCES ALONE.

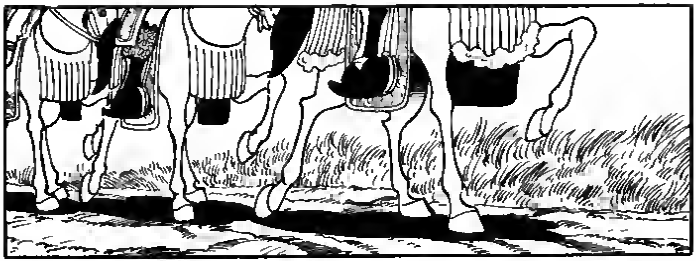
YES, MY LORD. IT IS QUITE SIMILAR TO SUWA'S UEHARA CASTLE
THAT LOOKS LIKE QUITE A STRONGHOLD.

YES, MY LORD.
VERY WELL THEN I SHALL GO HAVE A WORD WITH LORD YORI-SHIGE.


I AM TAKEDA HARUNOBU. I HAVE COME TO SPEAK WITH LORD SUWA YORISHIGE.
YES, MY LORD

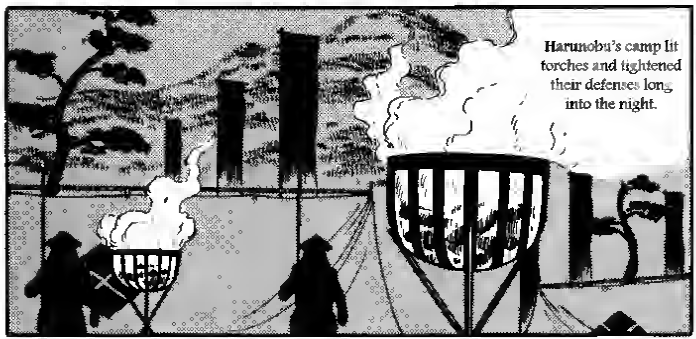
RIGHT THIS WAY
I HAVE COME TO GIVE YOU MY GREET-INGS.
OH, LORD HARUNOBU! IT IS A PLEASURE TO SEE YOU!


HAHAHA! OH, THIS IS NOTHING!
I PRESUME YOU ARE CELEBRATING YOUR MANY ACHIEVEMENTS
YES.
ANOTHER DAY AND THIS CASTLE WILL FALL! JUST TAKE YOUR TIME AND REST, AND WATCH THE CASTLE FALL!



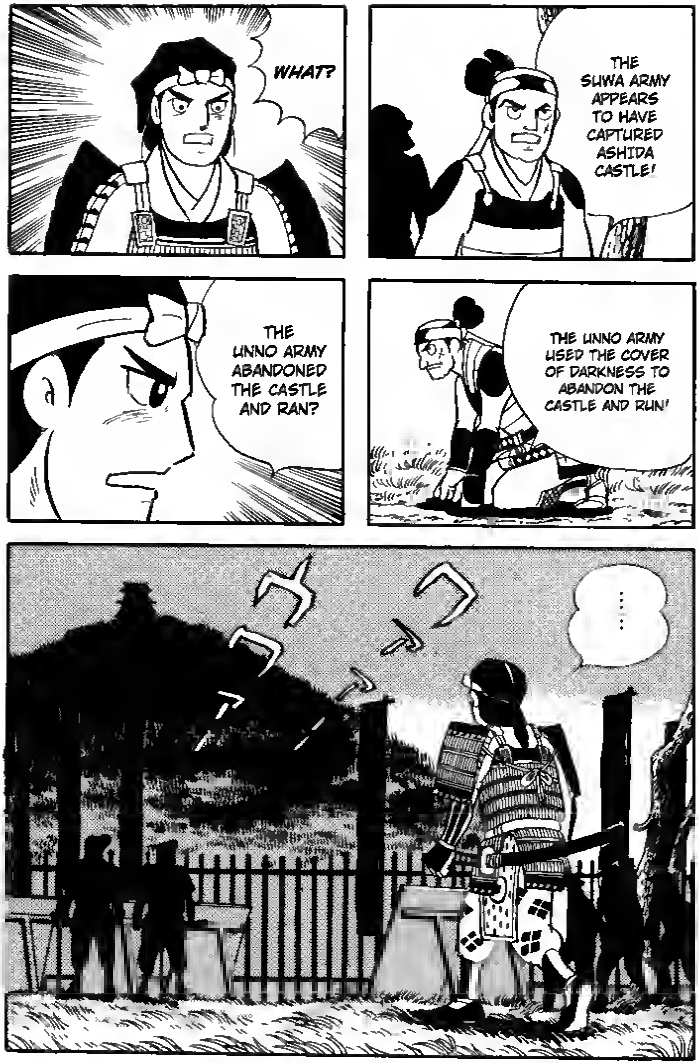
YES, MY LORD.
BUT BE ON YOUR GUARD. THE UNNO ARMY WILL STRIKE BACK. THEY WILL NEED OUR AID.

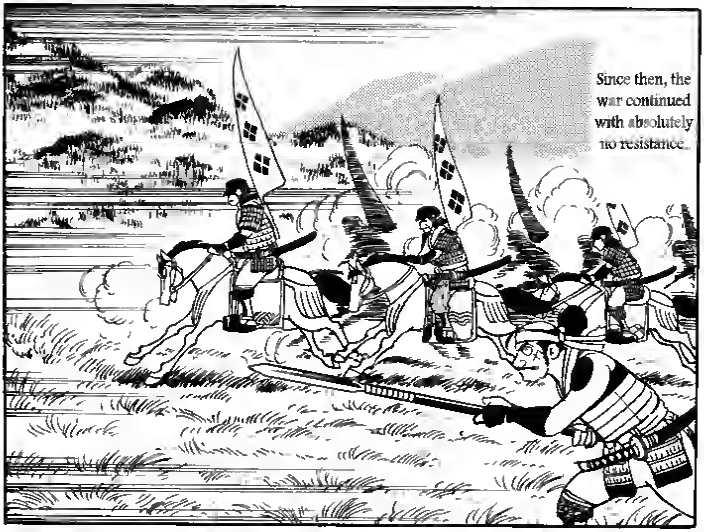
INDEED.
TORAYASU, HE SEEMS TO BE QUITE CONFIDENT SAYING THE CASTLE WILL FALL IN A DAY.

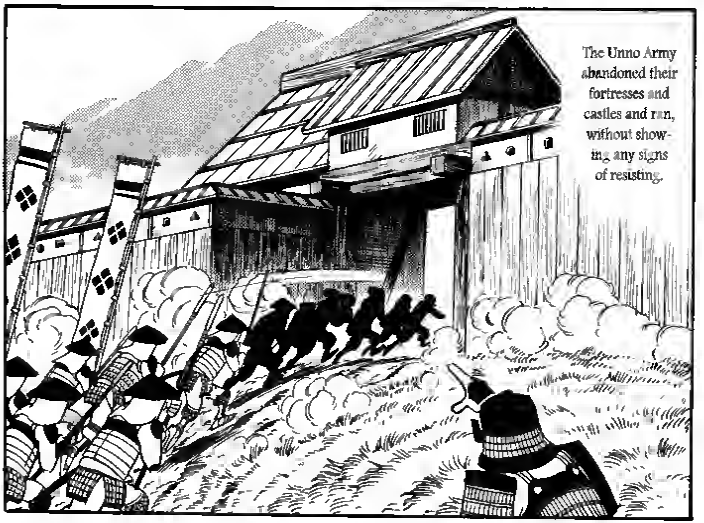

Harunobu's camp lit torches and tightened their defenses long into the night.

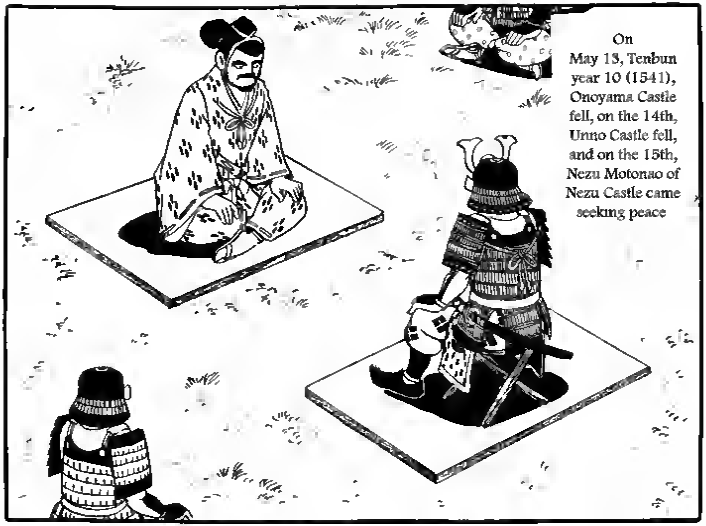
WHAT'S GOING ON?

REPORT-ING IN!

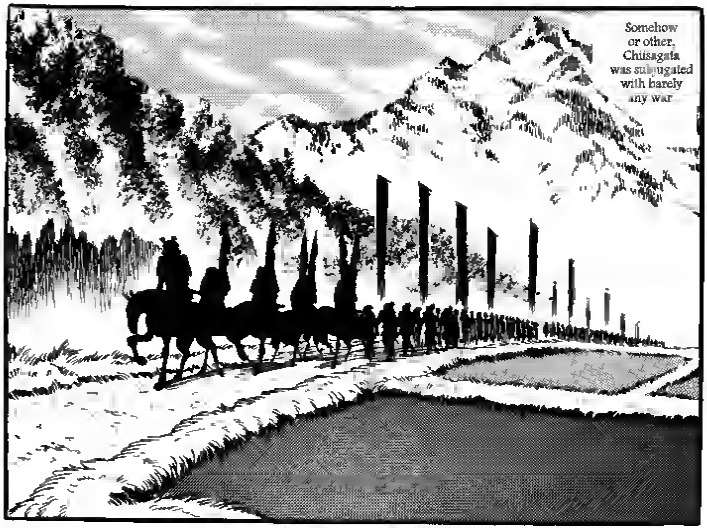

WHAT?
THE SUWA ARMY APPEARS TO HAVE CAPTURED ASHIDA CASTLE!
THE UNNO ARMY ABANDONED THE CASTLE AND RAN?
THE UNNO ARMY USED THE COVER OF DARKNESS TO ABANDON THE CASTLE AND RUN!
ウワーッ
……

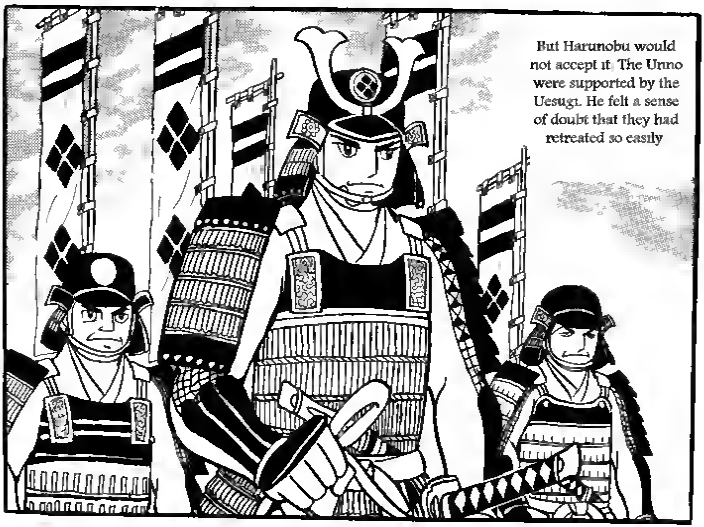

Since then, the war continued with absolutely no resistance.


The Unno Army abandoned their fortresses and castles and ran, without showing any signs of resisting.


On
May 13, Tenbun
year 10 (1541),
Onoyama Castle
fell, on the 14th,
Urino Castle fell,
and on the 15th,
Nezu Motonao of
Nezu Castle came
seeking peace

On the 16th,
Yazawa Castle
surrendered.


Somehow or other, Chūsagata was subjugated with barely any war

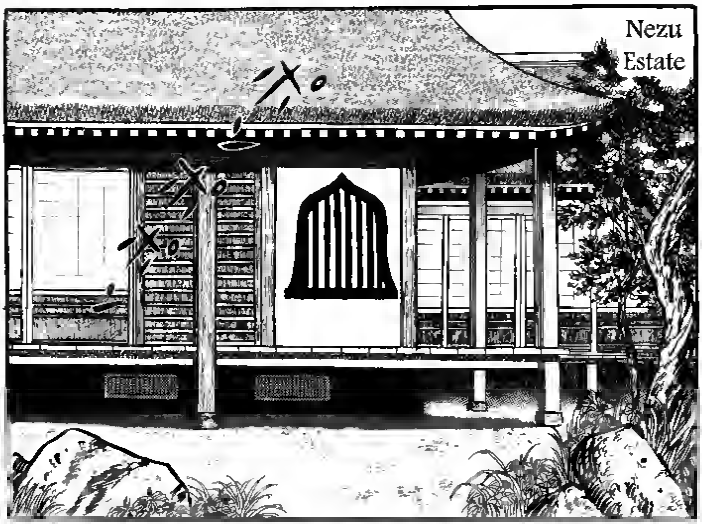

But Harunobu would not accept it. The Unno were supported by the Uesugi. He felt a sense of doubt that they had retreated so easily

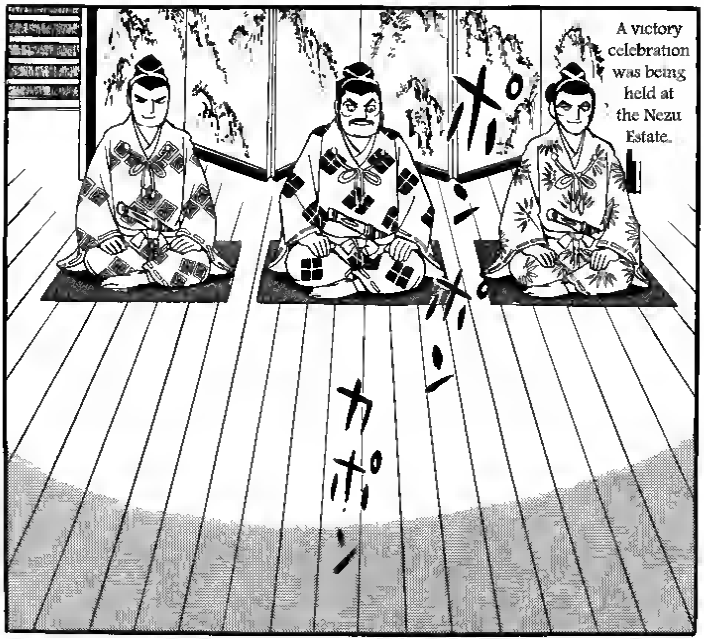
TAKEDA SHINGEN

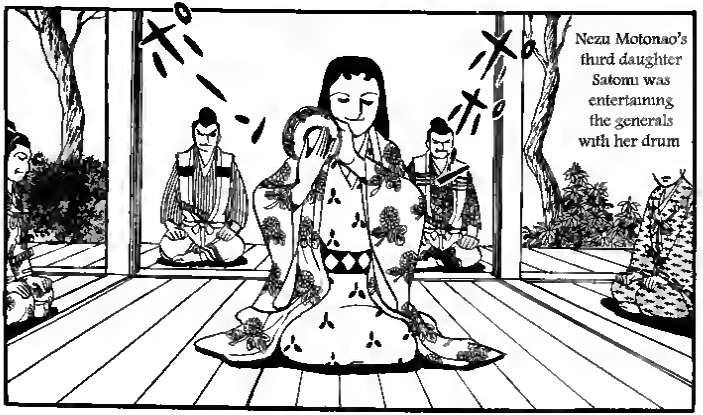
TRANSLATED BY SYSTEMATICCHAOS
PROOFREADING BY ANGELOFCHAOTIX
CLEANED BY WRIGHT
TYPESETTING BY ANI
QC BY KAZUHIKO

CHAPTER 7

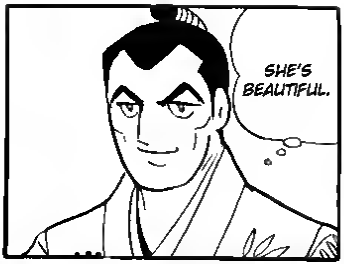
CHAPTER 8: LOVE POEM IN THE CAMP

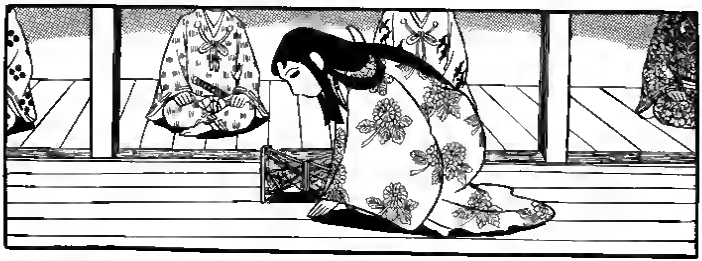


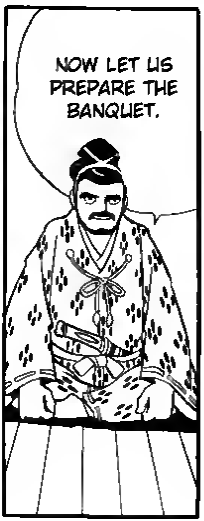

A victory celebration was being held at the Nezu Estate.
ポーン
ポーン
カポン


Nezu Motonao's third daughter Satomi was entertaining the generals with her drum
ポーン
ポーン

HMM.. BEAUTIFUL.


SHE'S BEAUTIFUL.

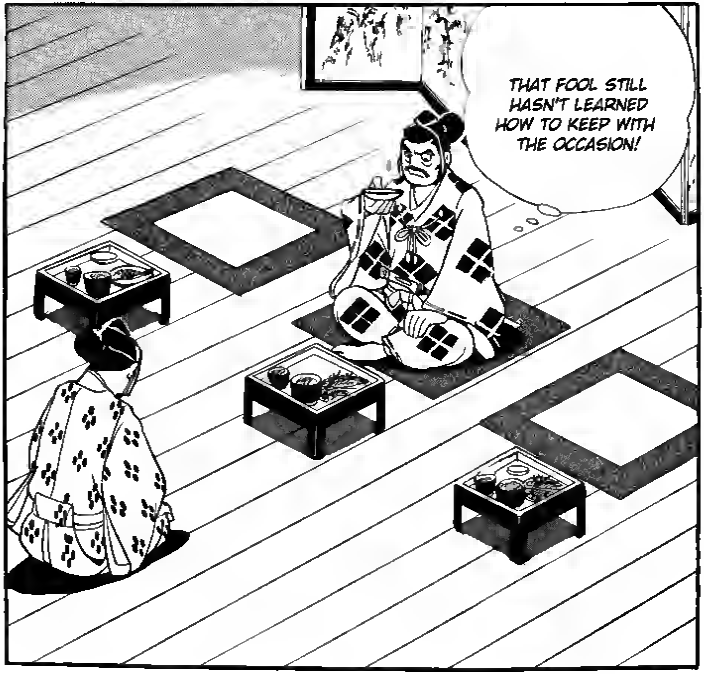



NOW LET US PREPARE THE BANQUET.

AH, WAIT! YOU REMAIN HERE!
THEN I SHALL TAKE MY LEAVE
YOU MEAN FOR SATOMI TO STAY FOR THE DRINKING PARTY?
BUT SATOMI IS STILL BUT A CHILD...
IF I SAY SHE REMAINS, THEN SHE REMAINS. HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT THE SUWA CLAN HOLDS LORDSHIP OVER THE NEZU CLAN?

THAT WOULD POSE A PROBLEM, LORD YORISHIGE
YOU DARE DEFY MY ORDERS?
THE TRUTH IS, WE WILL SOON BE HOLDING A POETRY PARTY IN ANOTHER ROOM, AND LADY SATOMI WILL BE JOINING US.
WHAT? WHY WOULD IT TROUBLE YOU, LORD HARUNOBU?
I UNDERSTAND I WILL COME BACK LATER TO DISCUSS LADY SATOMI.
OH-HO! SO YOU CAN WRITE POETRY, LORD HARUNOBU? I HEARD THAT THE SAMURAI OF KAI KNOW NOTHING BUT HOW TO RIDE A HORSE AND SWING A SPEAR...

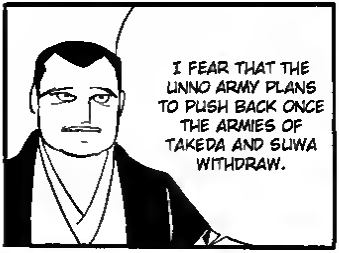
IT IS TIME I WENT TO THE POETRY PARTY, SO I MUST EXCUSE MYSELF...


THAT FOOL STILL HASN'T LEARNED HOW TO KEEP WITH THE OCCASION!

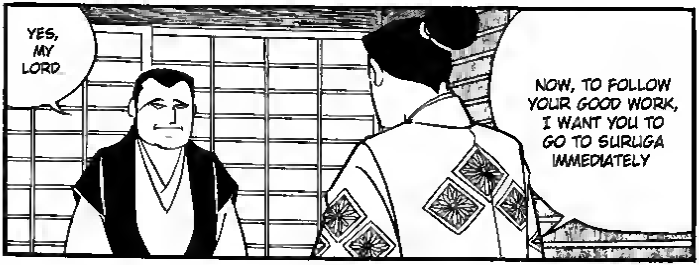
OH COME IN.
YAMAMOTO KANSUKE, AT YOUR SERVICE.
WELL DONE.
I HAVE FINISHED MY INVESTIGATION OF THE SUWA CLAN.

YES.

PRIEST CHINO IZU, CHIEF RETAINER OF SUWA YORISHIGE, HAS BEEN TRAVELLING BETWEEN THE MIGHTY CLANS OF CHIISAGATA, ACCOMPANIED BY NEZU MOTONAO. JUDGING BY THIS, I BELIEVE THAT THE REASON THE UNNO CLAN RETREATED WITHOUT A FIGHT IS BECAUSE THE SUWA AND UNNO HAVE COME TO A SECRET AGREEMENT OF SOME KIND.


I FEAR THAT THE UNNO ARMY PLANS TO PUSH BACK ONCE THE ARMIES OF TAKEDA AND SUWA WITHDRAW.

I SUSPECTED AS MUCH. I PRESUME THAT THEY HAD TRADED ASHIDA CASTLE AS PART OF THEIR ARRANGEMENT.


YES, MY LORD.
NOW, TO FOLLOW YOUR GOOD WORK, I WANT YOU TO GO TO SURUGA IMMEDIATELY

TO PICK WHO UP, MY LORD?
AFTER YOU HAVE REPORTED THIS WAR IN DETAIL TO LORD IMAGAWA YOSHIMOTO, I WANT YOU TO TELL HIM TO SEND ABOUT A HUNDRED PEOPLE TO PICK HIM UP.
YES, MY LORD!
LORD YOSHIMOTO WILL KNOW.
ALRIGHT, THEN...

IS THE BEATING OF A DRUM THAT I MISS SO MUCH
STOLEN DEEP INTO... STOLEN DEEP INTO... THE HEART OF A SAMURAI...
OTSUKI HEIZAEMON
スーッ
GOOD, GOOD.
GIVE THIS LETTER TO AN ERRAND BOY AND HAVE IT TAKEN TO LADY SATOMI.
YOU CALLED FOR ME, MY LORD?

LADY SATOMI'S ROOM?
I WANT YOU TO SNEAK INTO LADY SATOMI'S ROOM AND SEE WHAT KIND OF FACE LADY SATOMI MAKES WHEN SHE READS THIS.
AFTER THAT..
?
AFTER THAT?
BUT MY LORD...
THERE IS NO CAUSE FOR SURPRISE YOU ARE SKILLED ENOUGH TO SNEAK INTO ANY MANSION
YES, MY LORD.
NOW LISTEN. YOU MUST NOT STARTLE HER. LADY SATOMI IS A VERY IMPORTANT PERSON.

MY LORD, OTSUKI HEIZAEMON HAS ARRIVED
GOOD. COME IN.
I SEE.
I HAVE SEEN THE JOB THROUGH.

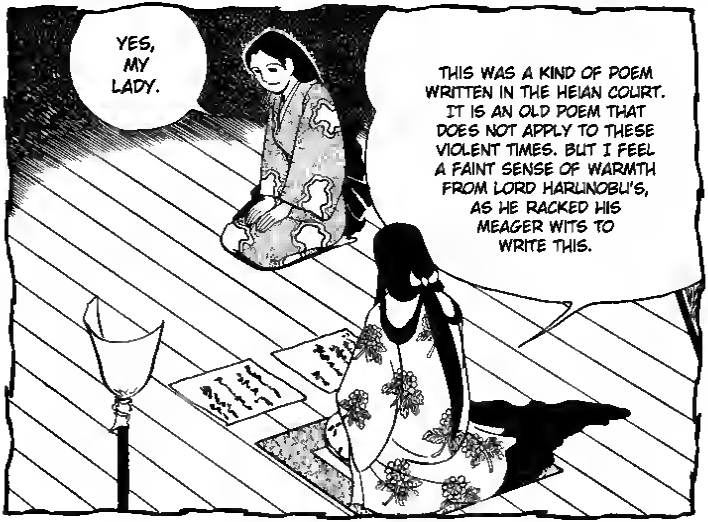
SHE READ IT WITH A STRAIGHT FACE.
AND WHAT FACE DID LADY SATOMI HAVE WHEN SHE READ MY POEM?
AFTER READING THE LETTER, LADY SATOMI SMILED.
OF COURSE SHE DID. IT IS COURTEOUS TO READ A LETTER WITH A PROPER ATTITUDE BUT WAS THERE SOME KIND OF EXPRESSION IN HER COUNTENANCE, LIKE JOY OR ANTICIPATION. . ?
NO, IF ANYTHING, I SAW IT AS A DERISIVE SMILE.
DID IT SEEM LIKE A HAPPY SMILE?

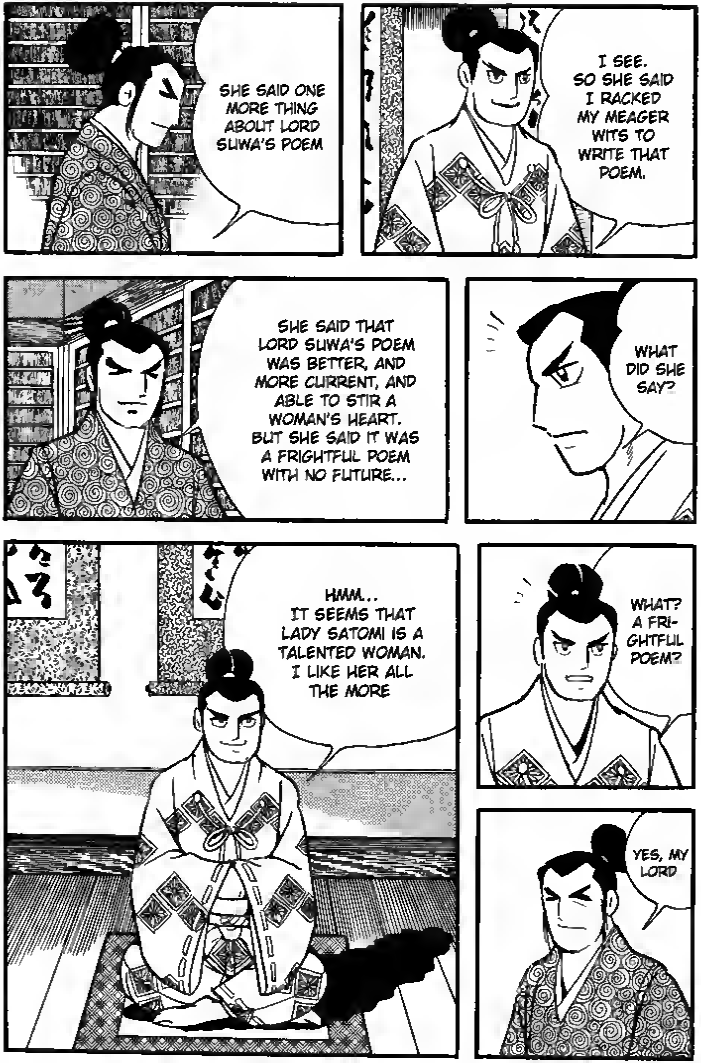
THAT WAS HOW IT SEEMED TO ME.
WHAT? ARE YOU SAYING THAT LADY SATOMI SMILED IN DERISION AFTER READING MY POEM?
That is when her maid brought her Lord Suwa Yorishige's letter
Lady Satomi placed Lord Harunobu's letter and Lord Yorishige's letter in front of her, and compared their poems.

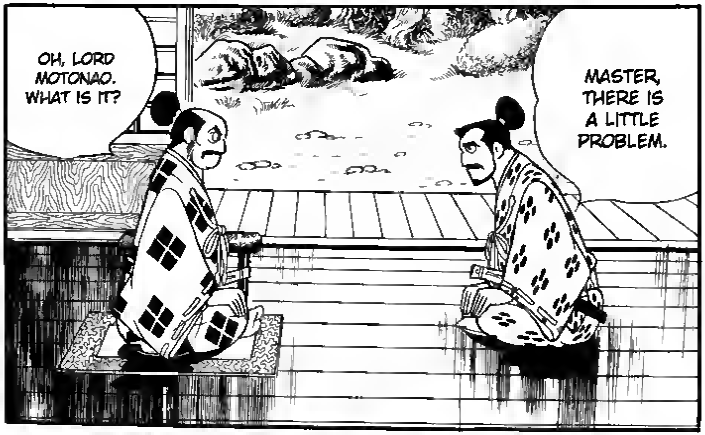
LORD YORISHIGE'S POEM IS SEVERAL TIMES BETTER... I FEEL THE STRENGTH OF A MAN WHERE HE SAYS "EVEN IF I SEIZE IT". BUT LORD HARUNOBU'S POEM IS AN OLD POEM.

Now even if I seize it,
I cannot take hold of it,
The white lily that
blooms In the village
of the mountains,

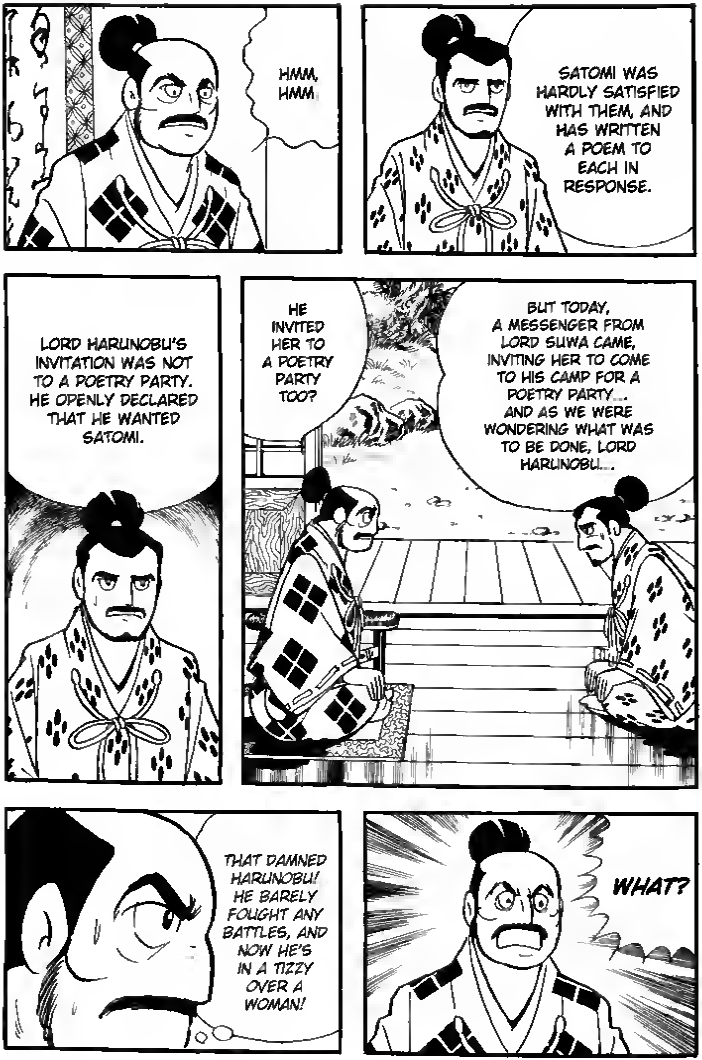
Stolen deep into
The heart of a samurai
Is the beating of a drum
That I miss so much.


YES, MY LADY.
THIS WAS A KIND OF POEM WRITTEN IN THE HEIAN COURT. IT IS AN OLD POEM THAT DOES NOT APPLY TO THESE VIOLENT TIMES. BUT I FEEL A FAINT SENSE OF WARMTH FROM LORD HARUNOBU'S, AS HE RACKED HIS MEAGER WITS TO WRITE THIS.


SHE SAID ONE MORE THING ABOUT LORD SUWA'S POEM
I SEE. SO SHE SAID I RACKED MY MEAGER WITS TO WRITE THAT POEM.
SHE SAID THAT LORD SUWA'S POEM WAS BETTER, AND MORE CURRENT, AND ABLE TO STIR A WOMAN'S HEART. BUT SHE SAID IT WAS A FRIGHTFUL POEM WITH NO FUTURE...
WHAT DID SHE SAY?
HMM... IT SEEMS THAT LADY SATOMI IS A TALENTED WOMAN. I LIKE HER ALL THE MORE
WHAT? A FRIGHTFUL POEM?
YES, MY LORD


OH, LORD MOTONAO. WHAT IS IT?
MASTER, THERE IS A LITTLE PROBLEM.

ひそひそ
YOU SEE, BOTH LORD HARUNOBU AND LORD YORISHIGE HAVE SENT LOVE POEMS TO SATOMI.


HMM, HMM
SATOMI WAS HARDLY SATISFIED WITH THEM, AND HAS WRITTEN A POEM TO EACH IN RESPONSE.
LORD HARUNOBU'S INVITATION WAS NOT TO A POETRY PARTY. HE OPENLY DECLARED THAT HE WANTED SATOMI.
HE INVITED HER TO A POETRY PARTY TOO?
BUT TODAY, A MESSENGER FROM LORD SUWA CAME, INVITING HER TO COME TO HIS CAMP FOR A POETRY PARTY... AND AS WE WERE WONDERING WHAT WAS TO BE DONE, LORD HARUNOBU...
THAT DAMNED HARUNOBU! HE BARELY FOUGHT ANY BATTLES, AND NOW HE'S IN A TIZZY OVER A WOMAN!
WHAT?

IF BOTH OF THESE LORDS DECLARE THAT THEY WANT SATOMI, THEN I WILL HAVE NO OTHER OPTION BUT TO SUGGEST THAT SATOMI COMMIT SUICIDE
AND WHAT OF IT?
SO YOU WILL ASSIST ME?
UNDERSTOOD. I WILL HANDLE THIS AFFAIR.
HARUNOBU WILL SOON BE EXILED TO SUNPU. THIS PROBLEM WILL BE OVER SOON.
I AM EVER IN YOUR DEBT.
TELL LADY SATOMI TO REST ASSURED.

OH, NOBUKATA! WHAT IS IT?
MASTER.
WHAT?
WE'VE RECEIVED REPORTS THAT UESUGI NORIMASA OF KOZUKE IS BEHAVING OUT OF THE ORDINARY. AND THE MURAKAM ARMY ARE ALSO MAKING SUSPICIOUS ACTIONS

AND WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THAT?
FOR THE PAST FEW DAYS, THE MURAKAMI ARMY HAS LEFT CHIISAGATA ENTIRELY, AND HAVE ASSEMBLED NEAR YODA.
WE HAVE FREQUENTLY REQUESTED THE MURAKAMI ARMY TO JOIN US IN OUR SUBJUGATION OF THE UNNO, BUT THEY REFUSE TO TAKE AN ASSERTIVE ATTITUDE, AND ARE MERELY AMASSING A LARGE ARMY IN MISCHIEF. JUDGING BY THIS...
I ALSO FIND IT STRANGE THAT UNNO MUNETSUNA RAN WITHOUT FIGHTING, AS WELL AS SUWA YORISHIGE'S ATTITUDEIN ADVANCING ONE RI (ABOUT 4 KILOMETERS) AHEAD. BUT WHAT IS ESPECIALLY STRANGE IS MURAKAMI'S ATTITUDE.

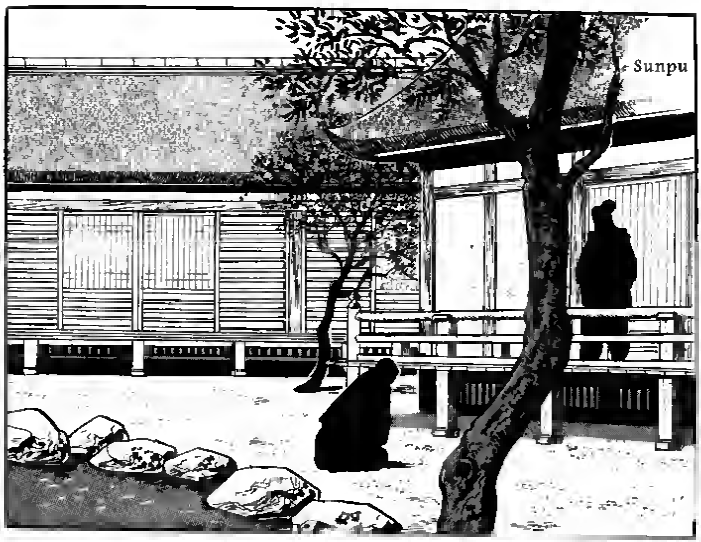
I FEAR IT IS JUST AS YOU HAVE GUESSED.
I UNDERSTAND. THE HEISUGI AND MURAKAMI WILL ATTACK US FROM BOTH SIDES, AND THE SUWA WILL DEFECT AND CUT OFF OUR ESCAPE ROUTES.
Even Nobutora was a veteran general He could make a decision based on sudden circumstances
VERY WELL. GATHER THE SOLDIERS IMMEDIATELY!
WITH THAT SAID, I BELIEVE IT IS BEST FOR US TO LEAVE THESE LANDS WITH UTMOST HASTE!

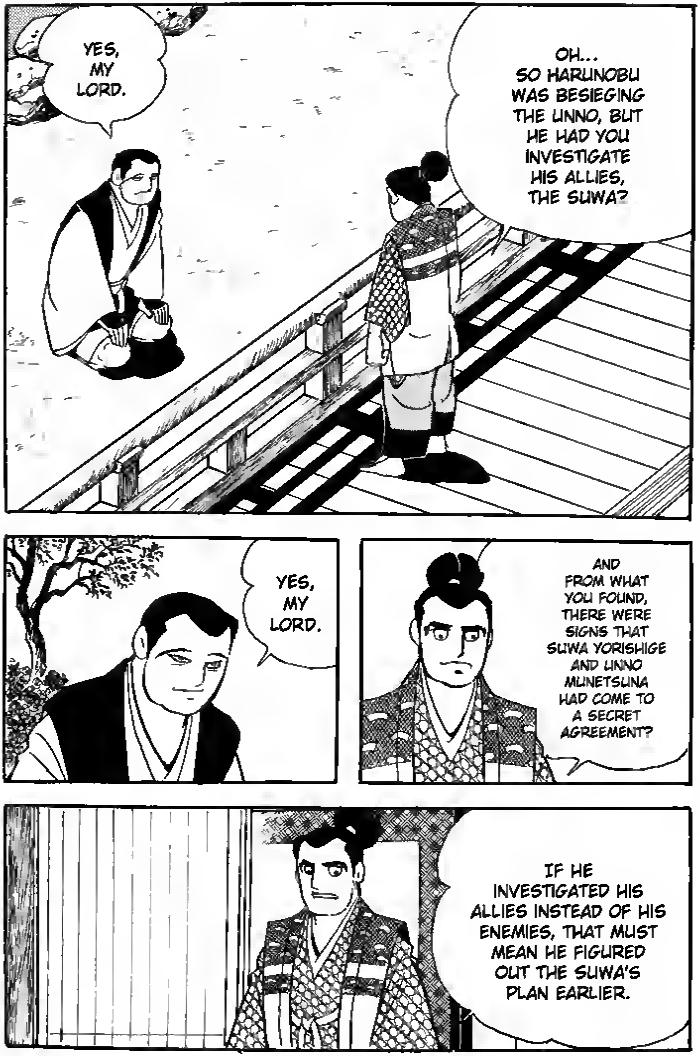
TAKEDA SHINGEN

TRANSLATED BY SYSTEMATICCHAOS
PROOFREADING BY ANGELOFCHAOTIX
CLEANED BY WRIGHT
TYPESETTING BY NEITEN
QC BY KAZUHIKO

CHAPTER 8

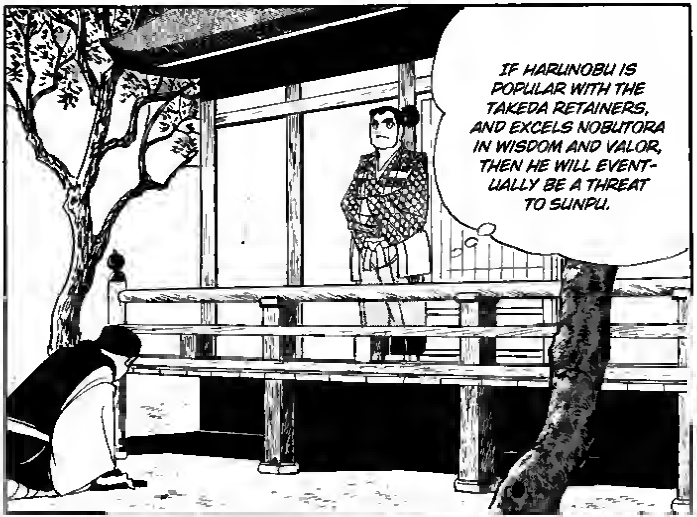
CHAPTER 9: NOBUTORA EXILED



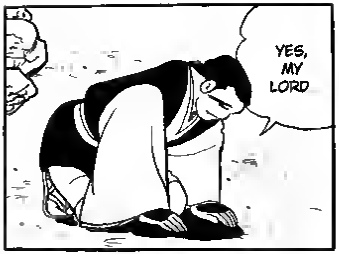

YES, MY LORD.
OH... SO HARUNOBU WAS BESIEGING THE UNNO, BUT HE HAD YOU INVESTIGATE HIS ALLIES, THE SUWA?
YES, MY LORD.
AND FROM WHAT YOU FOUND, THERE WERE SIGNS THAT SUWA YORISHIGE AND UNNO MUNETSUNA HAD COME TO A SECRET AGREEMENT?
IF HE INVESTIGATED HIS ALLIES INSTEAD OF HIS ENEMIES, THAT MUST MEAN HE FIGURED OUT THE SUWA'S PLAN EARLIER.

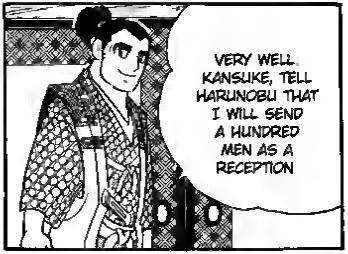
HMM...

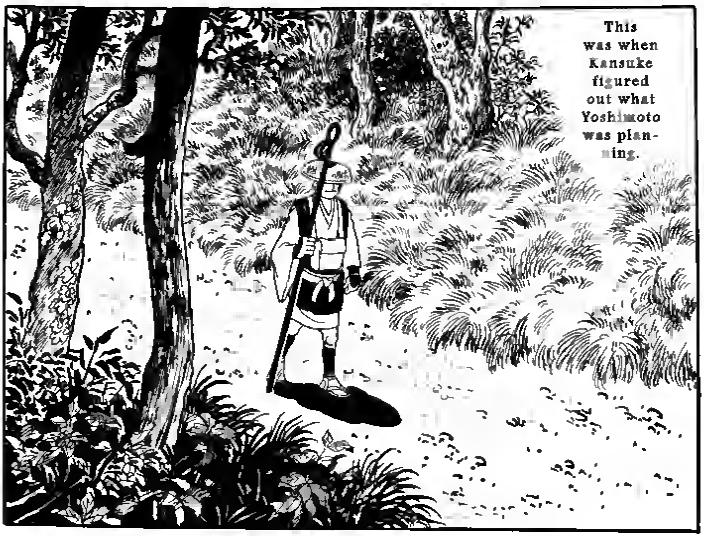
HARUNOBU SEEMS TO BE MORE CLEVER THAN I THOUGHT.

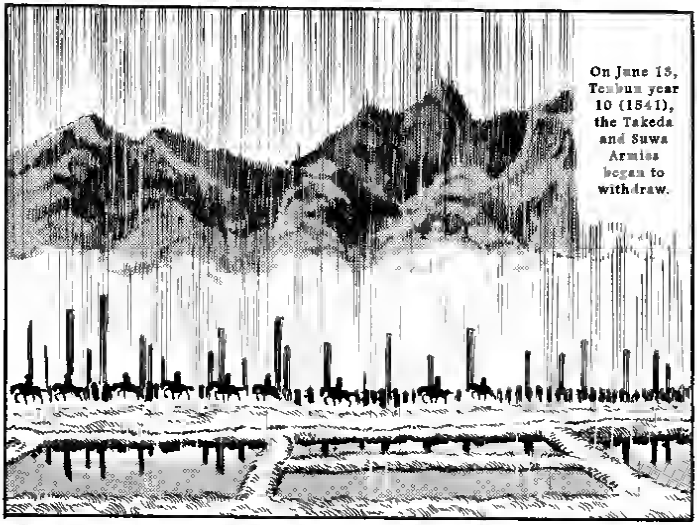

IF HARUNOBU IS POPULAR WITH THE TAKEDA RETAINERS, AND EXCELS NOBUTORA IN WISDOM AND VALOR, THEN HE WILL EVENTUALLY BE A THREAT TO SUNPU.

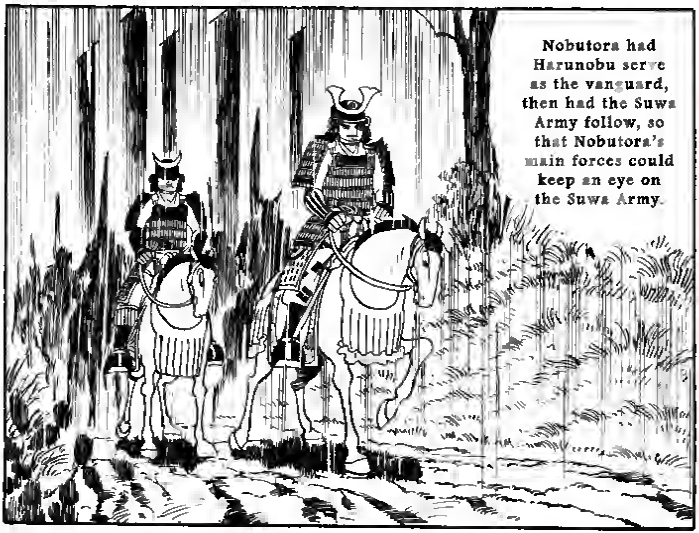
IF I LEAVE NOBUTORA AS HE IS, HE WILL RUIN HIMSELF. SO IT WOULD BE BEST FOR THE IMAGAWA IF I TAKE HARUNOBU TO SURUGA.

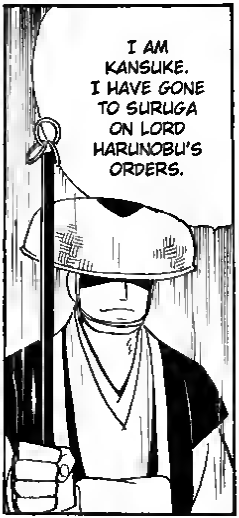

YES, MY LORD


VERY WELL. KANSUKE, TELL HARUNOBU THAT I WILL SEND A HUNDRED MEN AS A RECEPTION


This was when Kansuke figured out what Yoshimoto was planning.

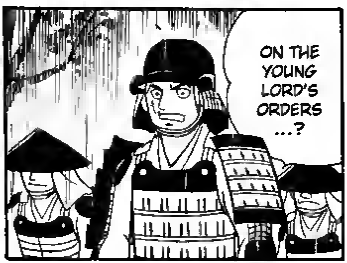

On June 15, Tenbun year 10 (1541), the Takeda and Suwa Armies began to withdraw.


Nobutora had Harunobu serve as the vanguard, then had the Suwa Army follow, so that Nobutora's main forces could keep an eye on the Suwa Army.

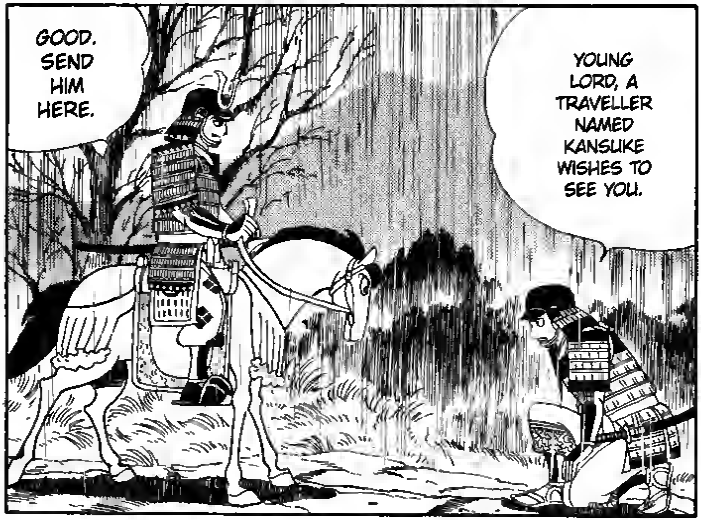

I AM KANSUKE. I HAVE GONE TO SURUGA ON LORD HARUNOBU'S ORDERS.

HALT! WHO GOES THERE?

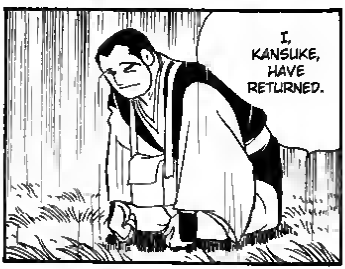
YES.


ON THE YOUNG LORD'S ORDERS ...?

VERY WELL. COME.

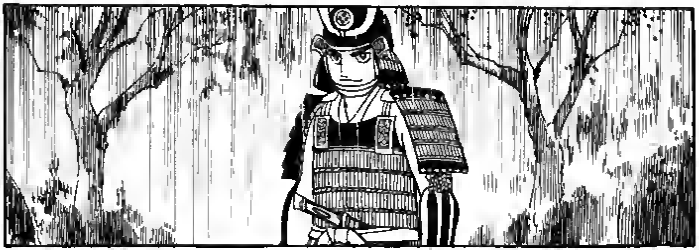

GOOD. SEND HIM HERE.
YOUNG LORD, A TRAVELLER NAMED KANSUKE WISHES TO SEE YOU.

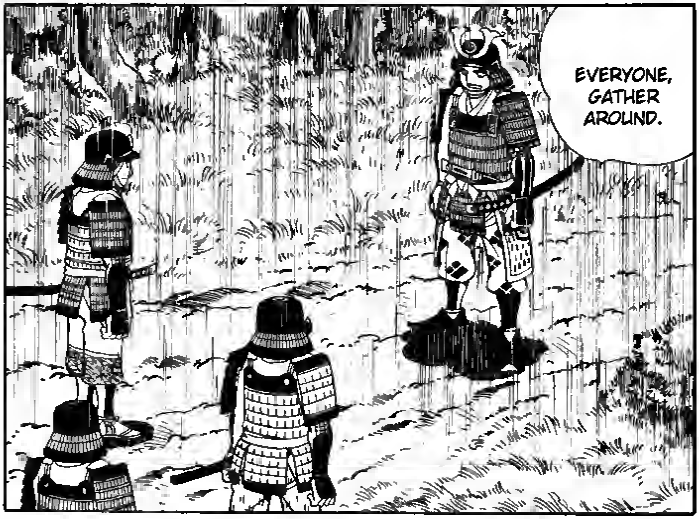
YES. GOOD WORK.


I, KANSUKE, HAVE RETURNED.

COME WITH ME.
HE AGREES TO THE RECEPTION. HE WILL SEND HIS RETAINER, TAKAMA GOROBEI, WITH A HUNDRED SOLDIERS TO MEET YOU.
AND WHAT DID LORD YOSHIMOTO SAY?

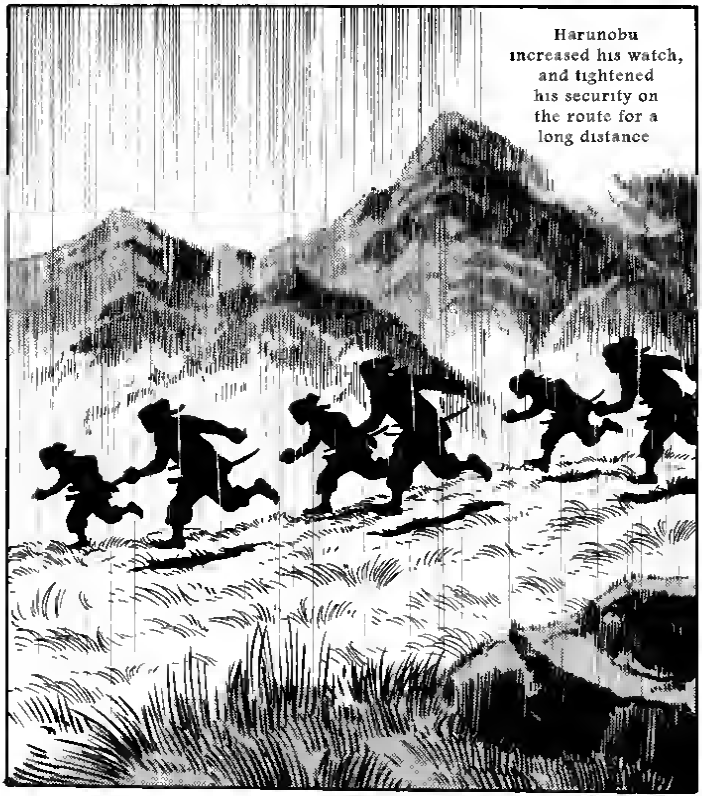
YES, MY LORD. THAT IS ALL.
IS THAT ALL?
But Harunobu could not simply overlook the way Kansuke tried to hide his face
YES, MY LORD.
GOOD WORK. YOU MAY REST NOW.
HE'S COVERING SOME-THING UP.

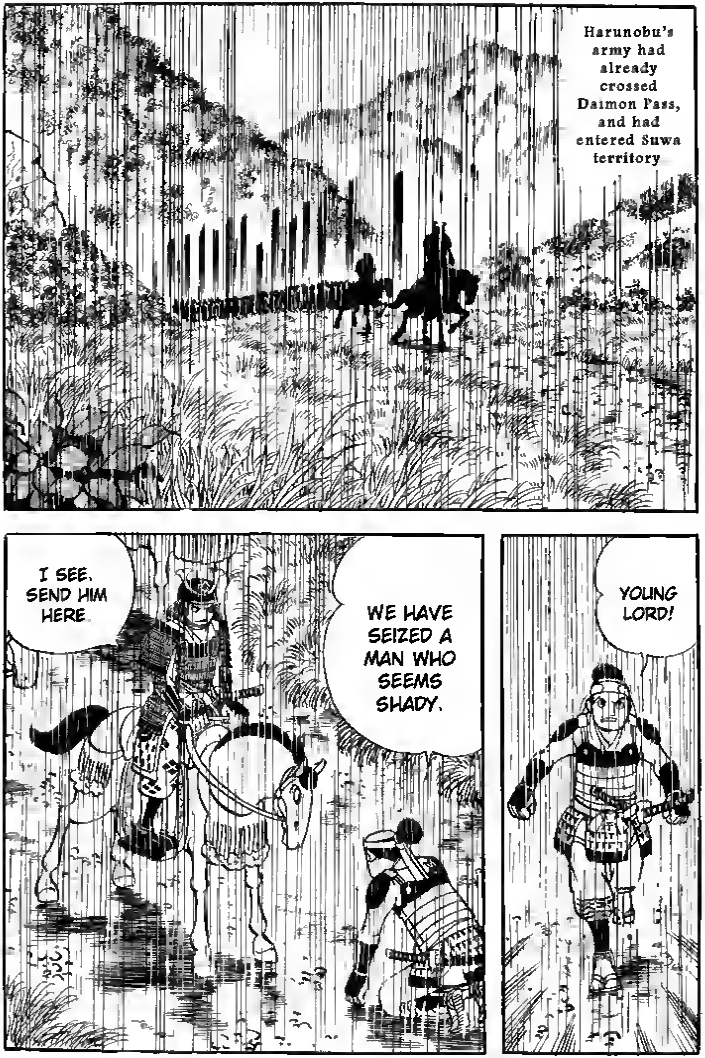


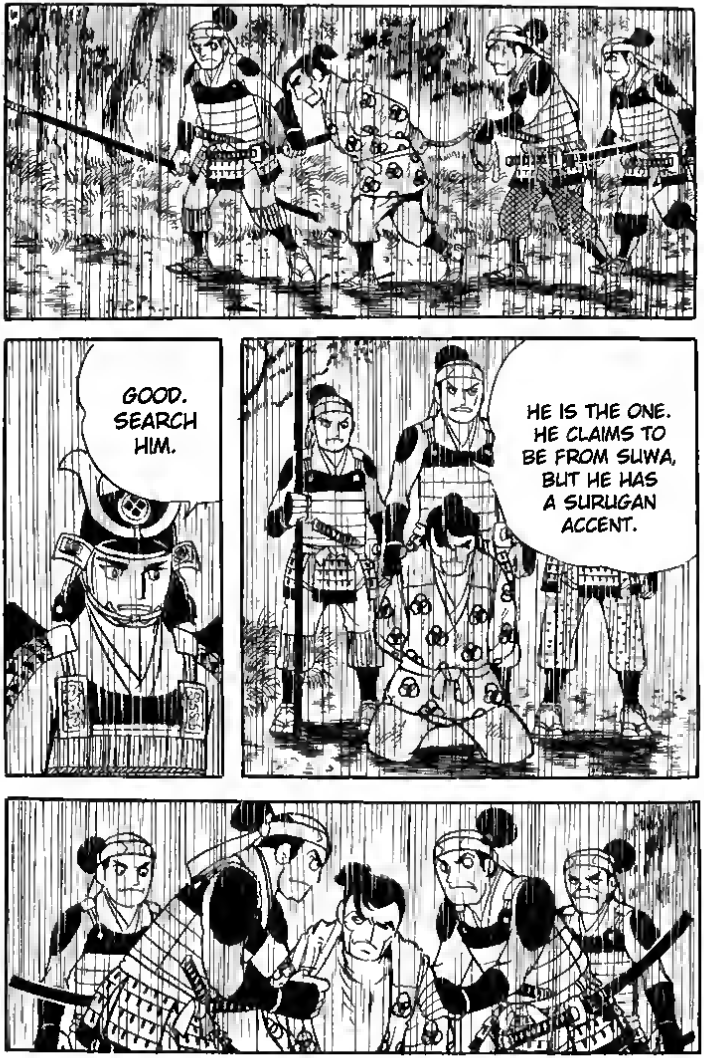

EVERYONE, GATHER AROUND.

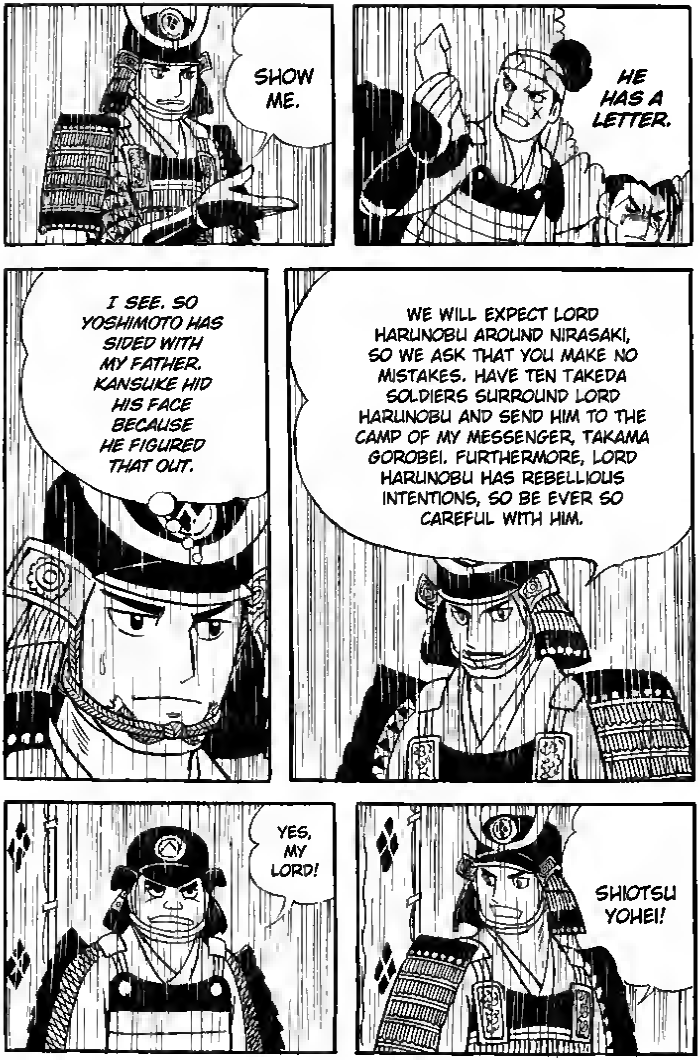
ONCE WE CROSS THE PASS, WE WILL BE IN SUWA DOMAIN, AND KAI DOMAIN AFTER THAT. DO NOT DROP YOUR GUARDS ON THE ROAD! IF YOU SEE ANYONE WHO IS NOT FROM THESE LANDS, WHOEVER THEY MAY BE, SEIZE THEM AND BRING THEM BEFORE ME!

YES, MY LORD

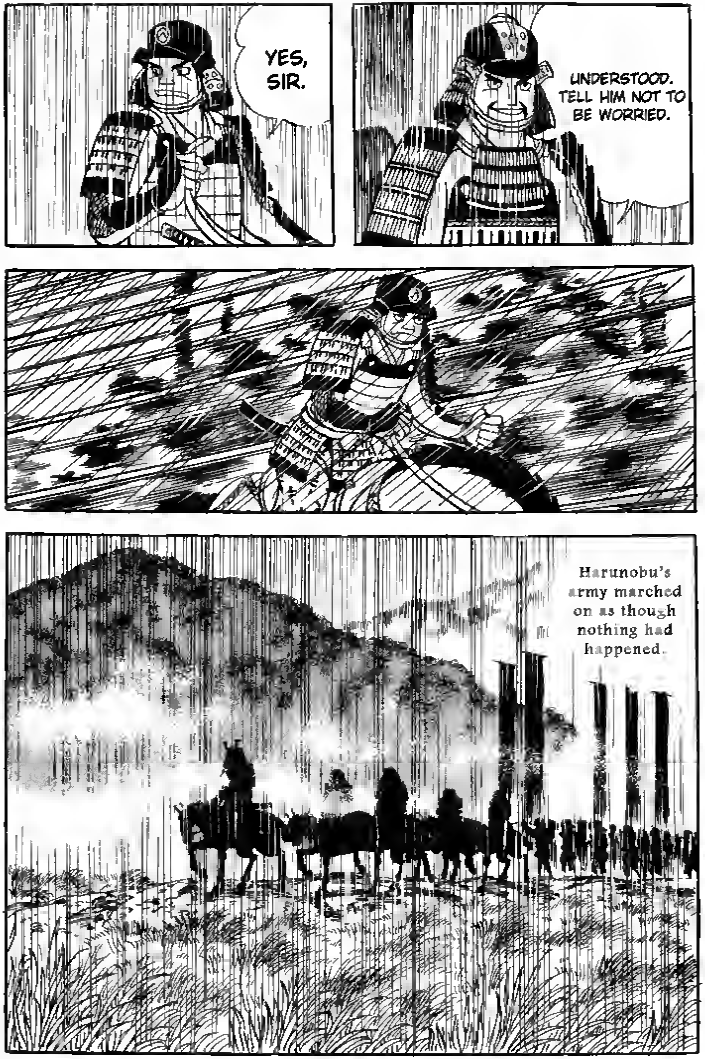

Harunobu increased his watch, and tightened his security on the route for a long distance

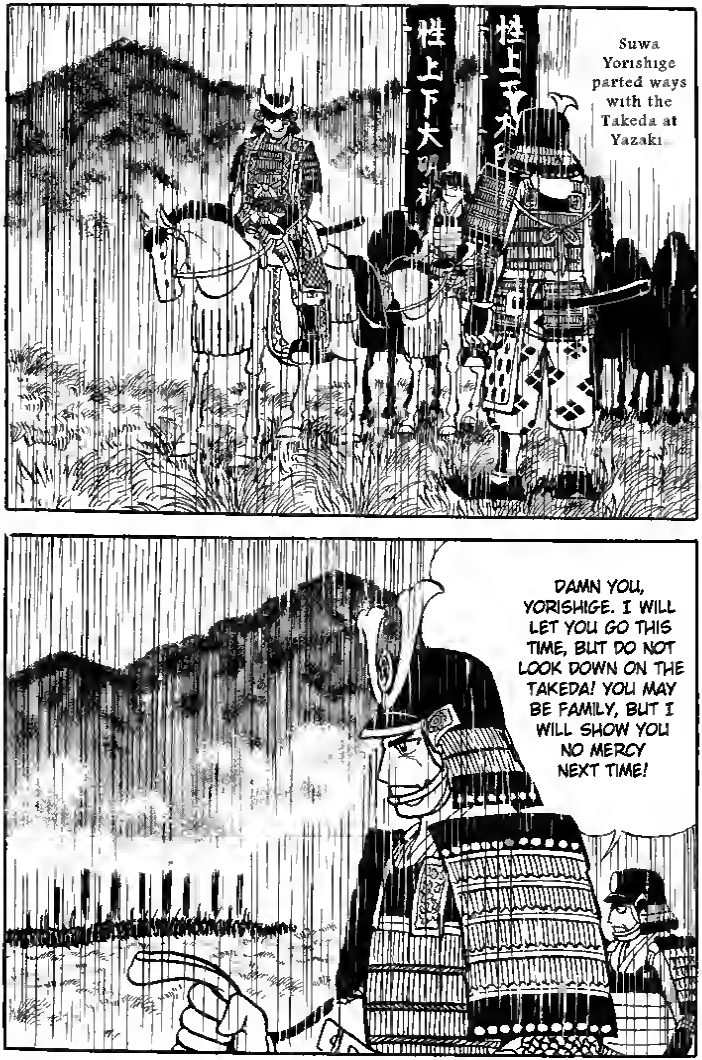

Harunobu's army had already crossed Daimon Pass, and had entered Suwa territory
I SEE. SEND HIM HERE.
WE HAVE SEIZED A MAN WHO SEEMS SHADY.
YOUNG LORD!

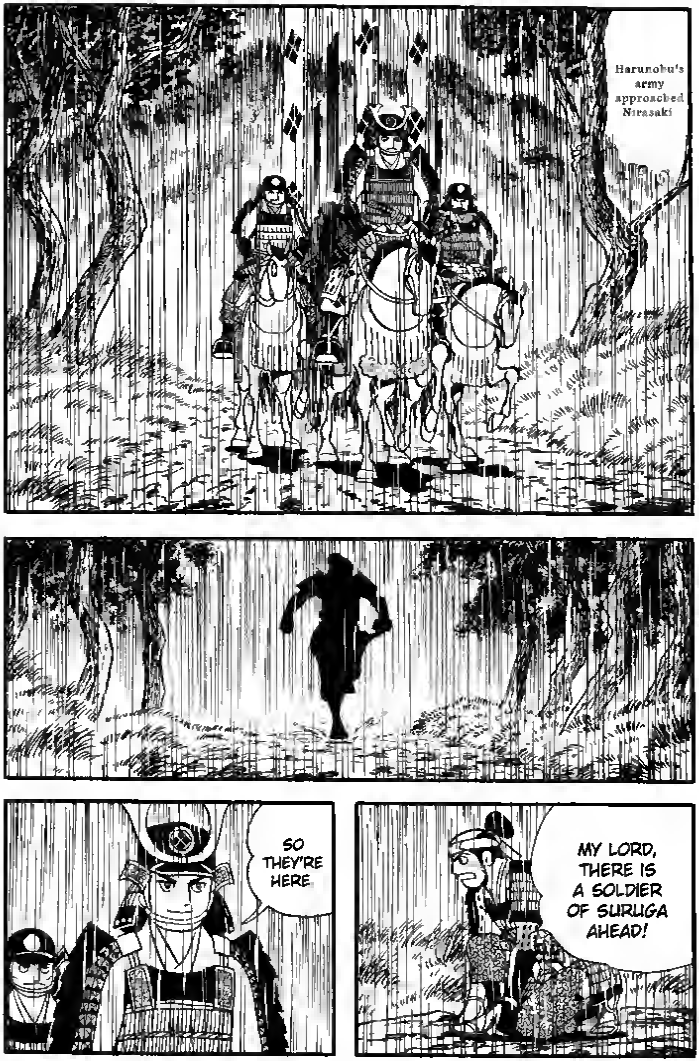

GOOD. SEARCH HIM.
HE IS THE ONE. HE CLAIMS TO BE FROM SUWA, BUT HE HAS A SURUGAN ACCENT.


SHOW ME.
HE HAS A LETTER.
I SEE. SO YOSHIMOTO HAS SIDED WITH MY FATHER. KANSUKE HID HIS FACE BECAUSE HE FIGURED THAT OUT.
WE WILL EXPECT LORD HARUNOBU AROUND NIRASAKI, SO WE ASK THAT YOU MAKE NO MISTAKES. HAVE TEN TAKEDA SOLDIERS SURROUND LORD HARUNOBU AND SEND HIM TO THE CAMP OF MY MESSENGER, TAKAMA GOROBEI. FURTHERMORE, LORD HARUNOBU HAS REBELLIOUS INTENTIONS, SO BE EVER SO CAREFUL WITH HIM.
YES, MY LORD!
SHIOTSU YOHEI!

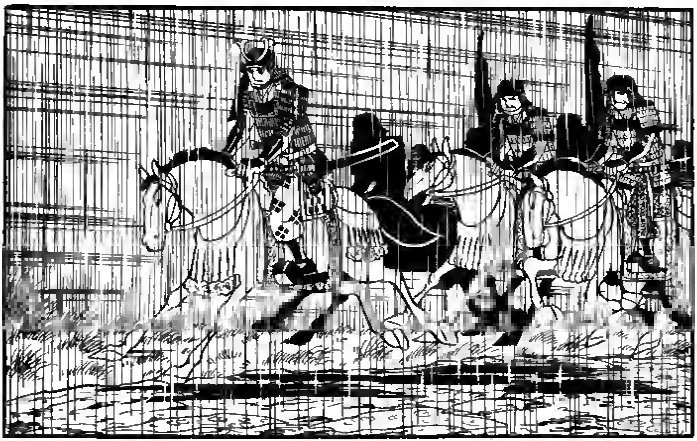
YES, MY LORD.
SHOW THIS TO NOBU-KATA.
THE YOUNG LORD WANTS YOU TO SEE THIS.
SIR ITAGAKI!


YES, SIR.
UNDERSTOOD. TELL HIM NOT TO BE WORRIED.
Harunobu's army marched on as though nothing had happened.


Suwa Yorishige parted ways with the Takeda at Yazaki.
DAMN YOU, YORISHIGE. I WILL LET YOU GO THIS TIME, BUT DO NOT LOOK DOWN ON THE TAKEDA! YOU MAY BE FAMILY, BUT I WILL SHOW YOU NO MERCY NEXT TIME!

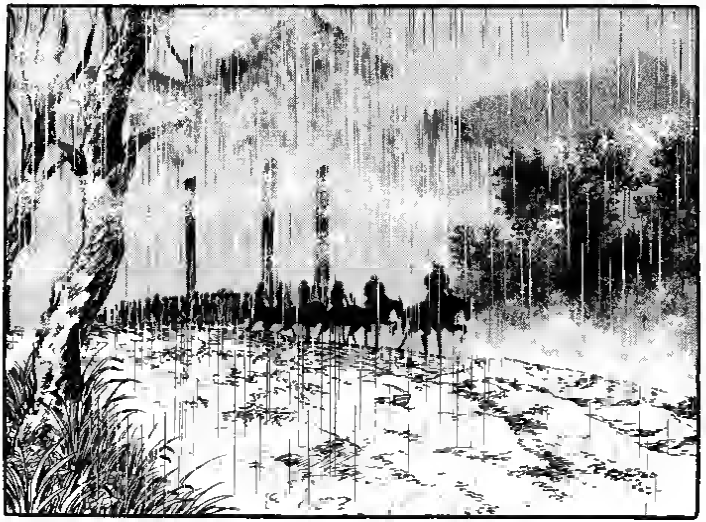

Harunobu's army approached Nirasaki
SO THEY'RE HERE
MY LORD, THERE IS A SOLDIER OF SURUGA AHEAD!

ONWARD!

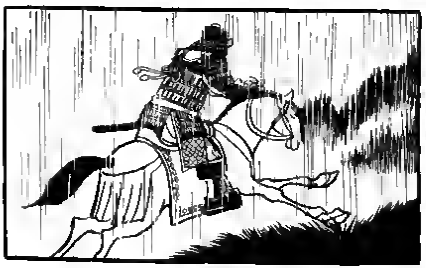


?
W-WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?

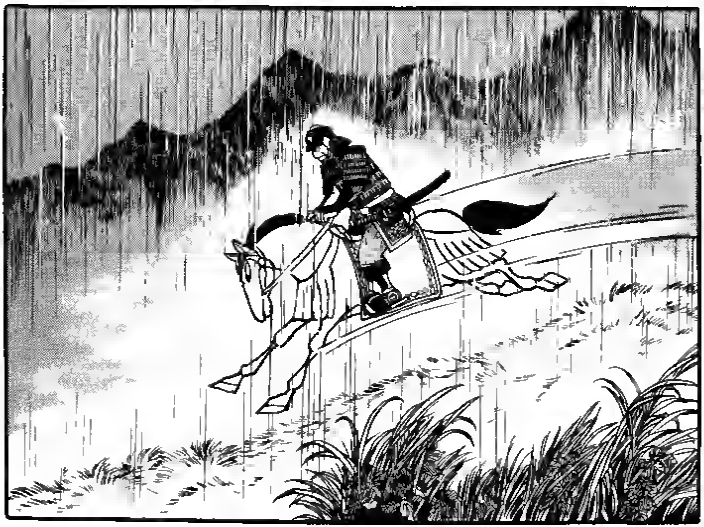
WHY DO YOU NOT SAY YOU ARE HERE FOR LORD NOBUTORA?
WE HAVE COME HERE FOR LORD HARUNOBU!
YOU MUST HAVE MISHEARD! IT IS MY FATHER THAT IS BEING SENT TO SURUGA!
NOW THAT IS STRANGE! OUR LORD TOLD US TO COME FOR LORD HARUNOBU...
IF YOU INSIST ON TAKING ME, YOU WILL ALL BE SLAIN ON THE SPOT!

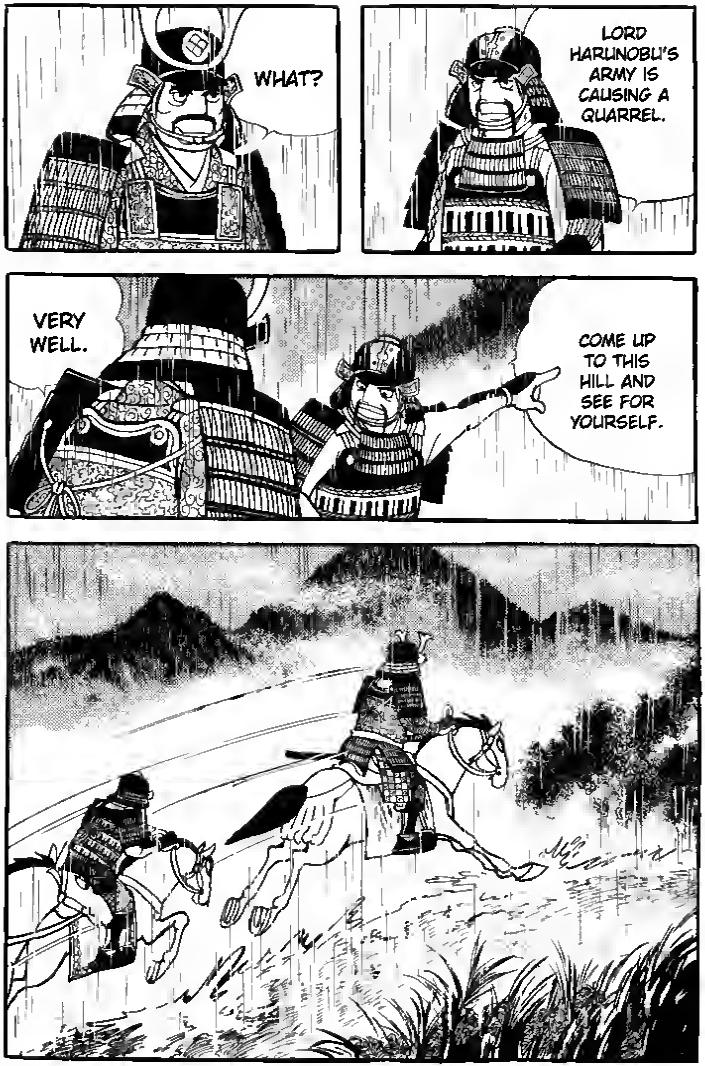


WHAT DO YOU MEAN, SOME KIND? REPORT TO ME ONCE YOU SEE WHAT IT IS!
IT SEEMS THERE IS SOME KIND OF QUARREL AHEAD.



THEN I SHALL GO AND SEE.




WHAT?
LORD HARUNOBU'S ARMY IS CAUSING A QUARREL.
VERY WELL.
COME UP TO THIS HILL AND SEE FOR YOURSELF.

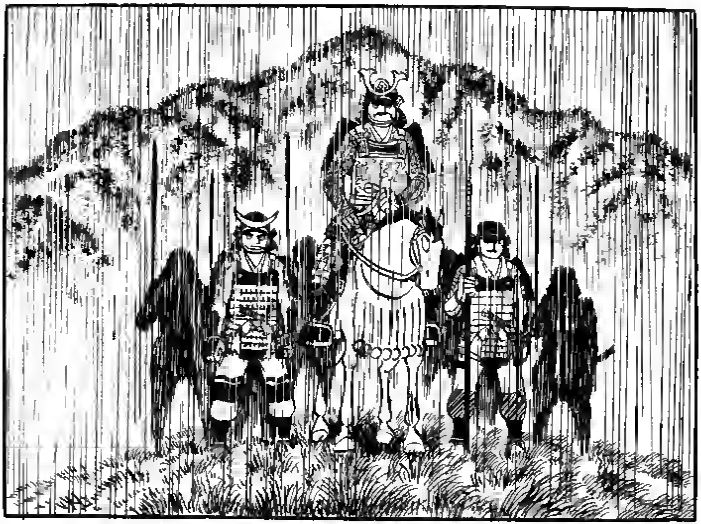
OHHH!

THERE THEY ARE.

UNDER-
STOOD.

ONWARD!

HAVE OUR ALLIES WITHDRAW AT ONCE, AND DELIVER HARUNOBU INTO THE HANDS OF LORD IMAGAWA'S MESSENGER!
IS THAT NOT LORD IMAGAWA'S ARMY? LORD IMAGAWA'S ARMY HAS COME FOR HARUNOBU!!



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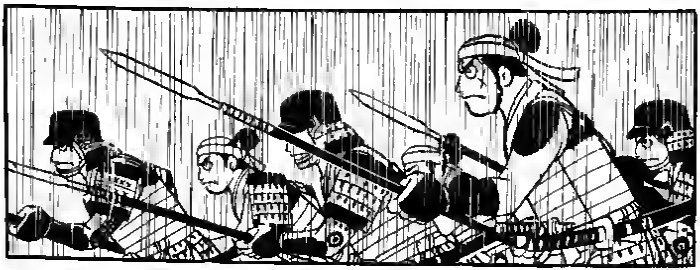
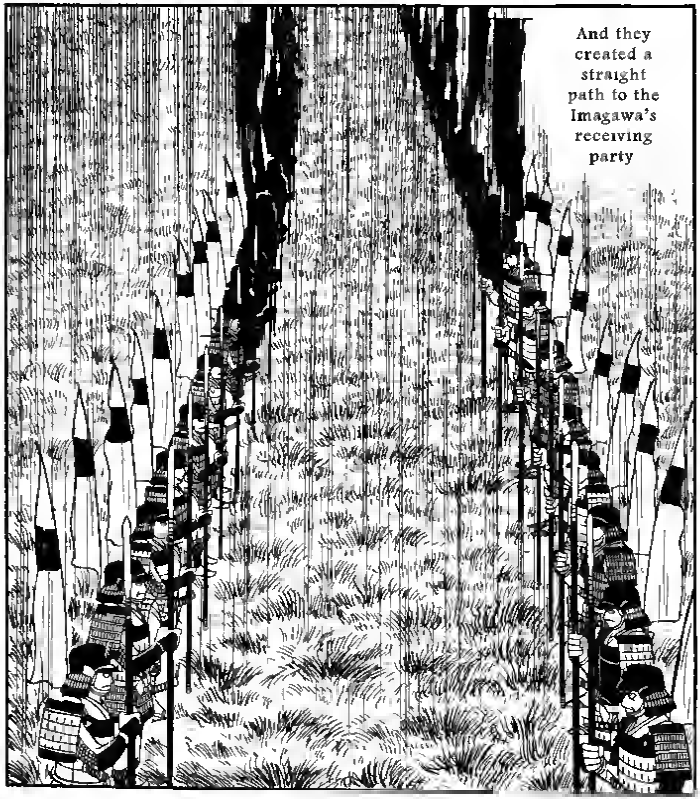


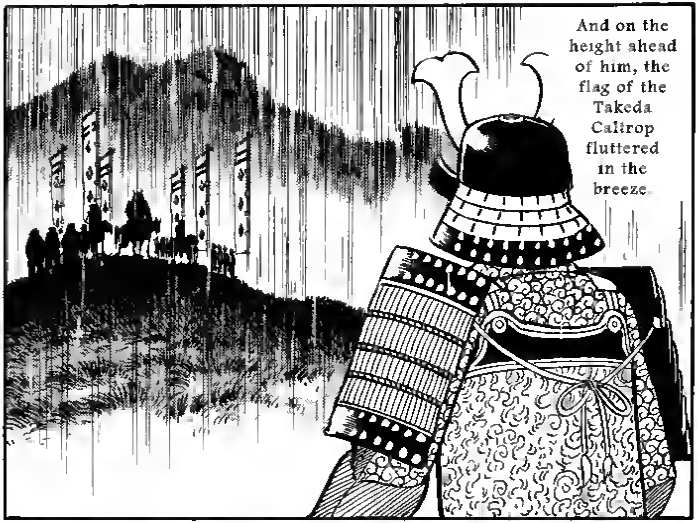
HUH?
HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MINDS?

.....
COME TO YOUR SENSES! I AM TAKEDA NOBUTORA!
.....
WHERE DID ITAGAKI NOBUKATA GO? AND WHERE IS AMARI TORAYASU?
KOHEITA! WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE ME DO?
PLEASE, BE PATIENT, MASTER..

I BELIEVE THE BEST PLAN WOULD BE TO TAKE REFUGE IN SURUGA. WE TEN WILL ACCOMPANY YOU WITH LORD IMAGAWA'S RECEIVING PARTY.
I KNEW. THIS WAS THE ONLY WAY TO ENSURE THE STABILITY OF THE TAKEDA.
KO-HEITA! YOU KNEW ABOUT THIS?
EVEN MY CLOSE ASSOCIATE FURUKAWA KOHEITA...

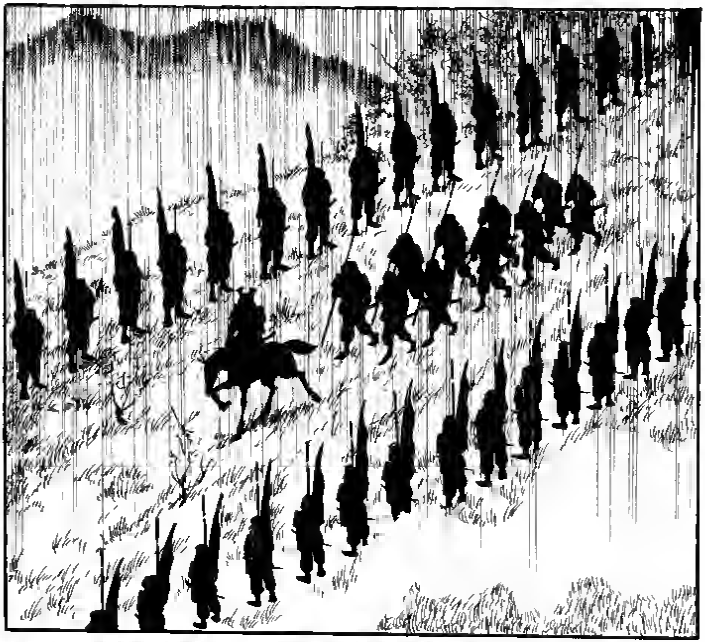
Meanwhile, the surrounding soldiers began to move slightly.

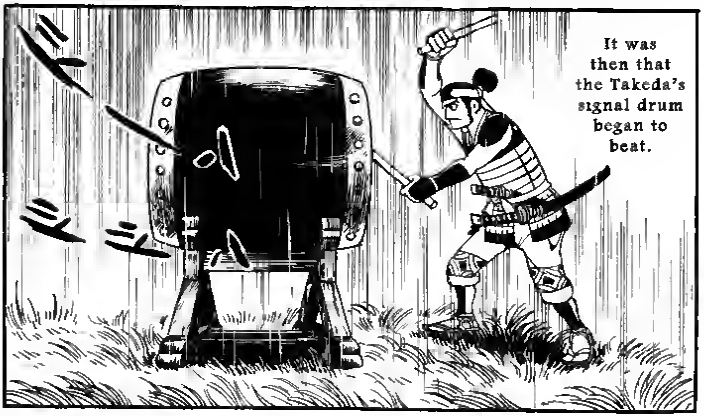

And they created a straight path to the Imagawa's receiving party

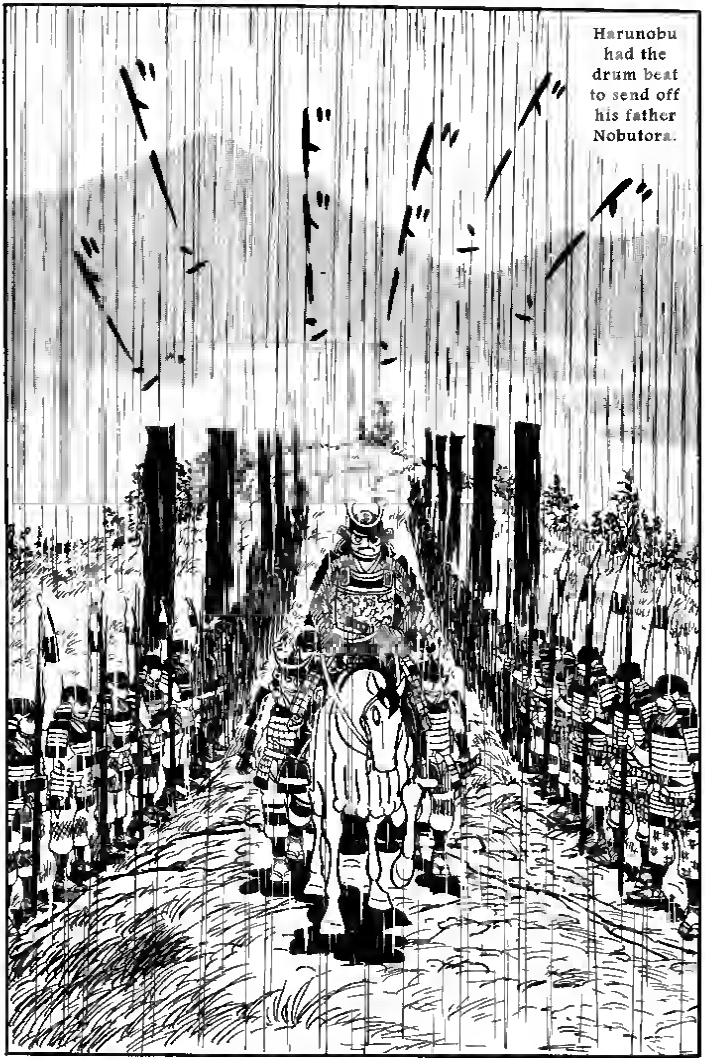

And on the height ahead of him, the flag of the Takeda Caltrop fluttered in the breeze.

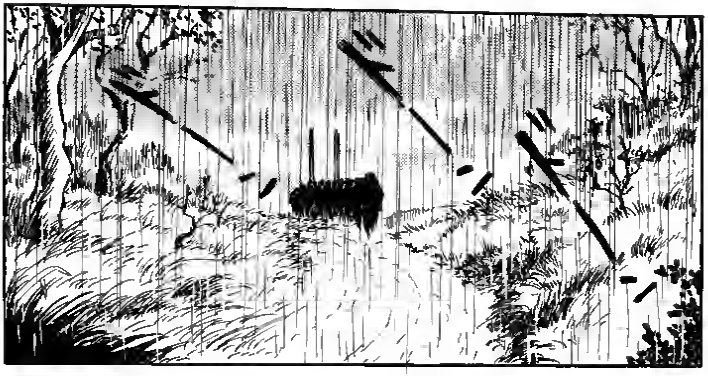
And there stood Harunobu.

AS MAGNIFICENT HARUNOBU IS FOR PREPARING THIS PLOT, SO IS THE UNWAVERING COOPERATION OF THE GENERALS THAT BETRAYED ME.
HOW MAGNI-FICENT...
WE TEN WILL ACCOMPANY YOU TILL DEATH.
KOHEITA, DO I NOT HAVE A SINGLE ALLY?
UNDERSTOOD. I WILL GO TO SURUGA.
I SUPPOSE I HAVE MISJUDGED HARUNOBU'S TALENTS.



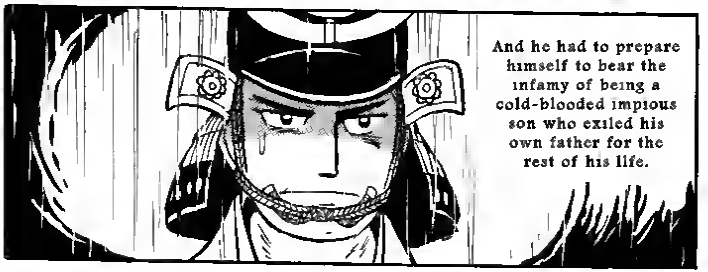

It was then that the Takeda's signal drum began to beat.

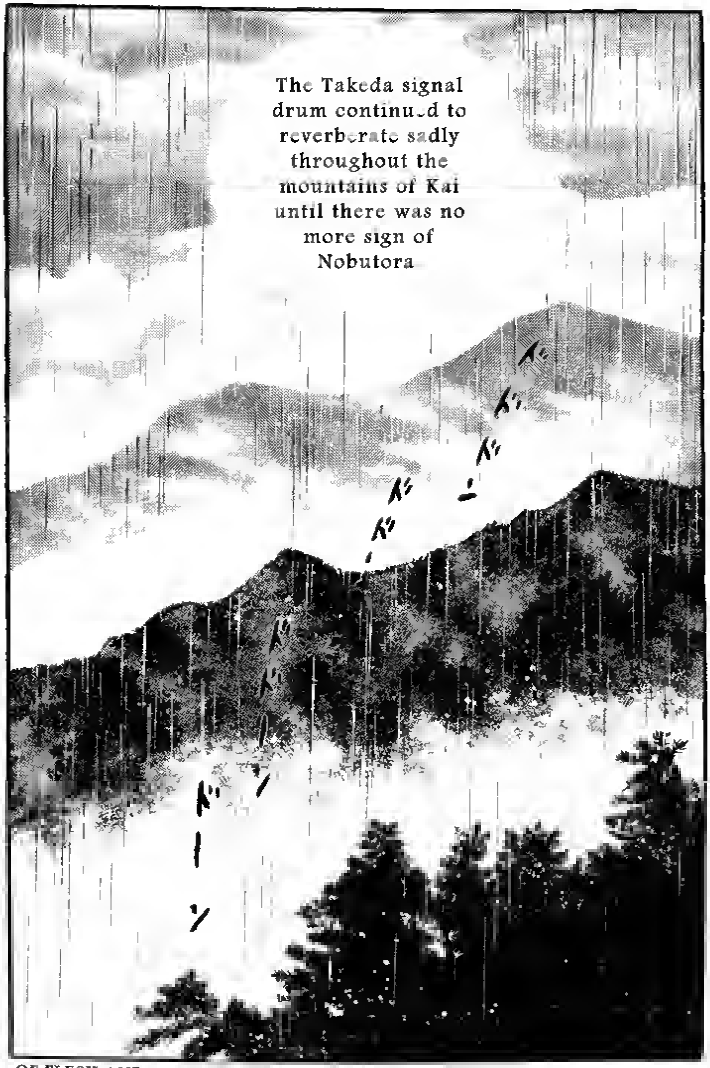

Harunobu had the drum beat to send off his father Nobutora.



Harunobu deeply felt the sorrow of one born in the age of the Warring States.

If he did not drive out his father, he himself would be killed


And he had to prepare himself to bear the infamy of being a cold-blooded impious son who exiled his own father for the rest of his life.


The Takeda signal drum continued to reverberate sadly throughout the mountains of Kai until there was no more sign of Nobutora

OF FLESH AND BONE - END

FATHER: NOBUTORA – PORTRAIT OF THE FOOLHARDY GENERAL

Nobutora was exiled to Sunpu on June 14, Tenbun year 10 (1541) by his own son Harunobu and hia retainers, but the records say that the citizens were greatly pleased, and praised Harunobu.

This shows just how much Nobutora was hated by the citizens. Though he inherited from his father Nobutsuna at a young age, united Kai, made Kofu his base, and laid the cornerstone for three generations of the Takeda, the frequent wars and the taxation that came with it must have been hard for the citizens to bear.

Having been forced into retirement, Nobutora received the protection of the Ashikaga Shogun of Kyoto after the death of Imagawa Yoshimoto, and spent his last years passed around by his Takeda relatives, and ended his 81-year life one year after Shingen, in March of Tensho year 2 (1574), in Takato of Shinshu, at the home of his son-in-law Nezu Kamihira. He was enshrined in Daisen Temple of the Soto School in Kofu.

Though he had such a tumultuous relationship with his son, his hatred subsided in his later years, and it is said he assisted Shingen's procession to the capital from the shadows.

SEKISUI TEMPLE – THE BIRTHPLACE OF SHINGEN

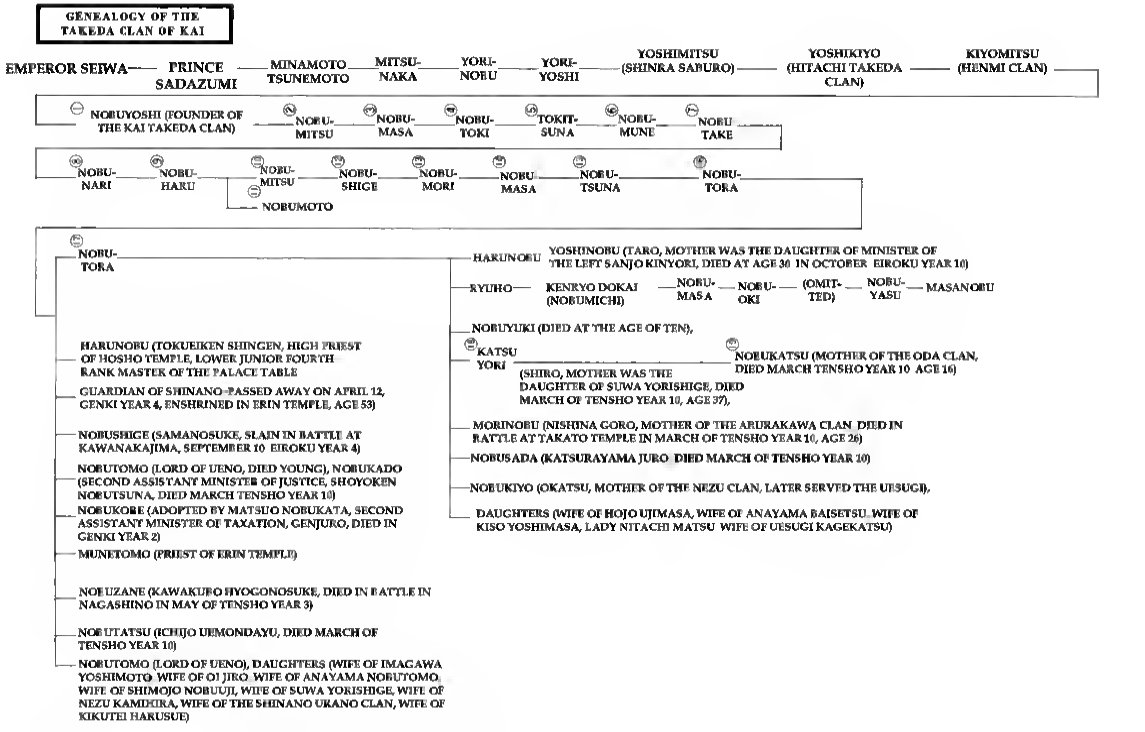
SEKISUI TEMPLE ON MT. YOGAI, SHINGEN'S BIRTHPLACE

THE WELL IN SEKISUI TEMPLE, WHERE SHINGEN TOOK HIS FIRST BATH

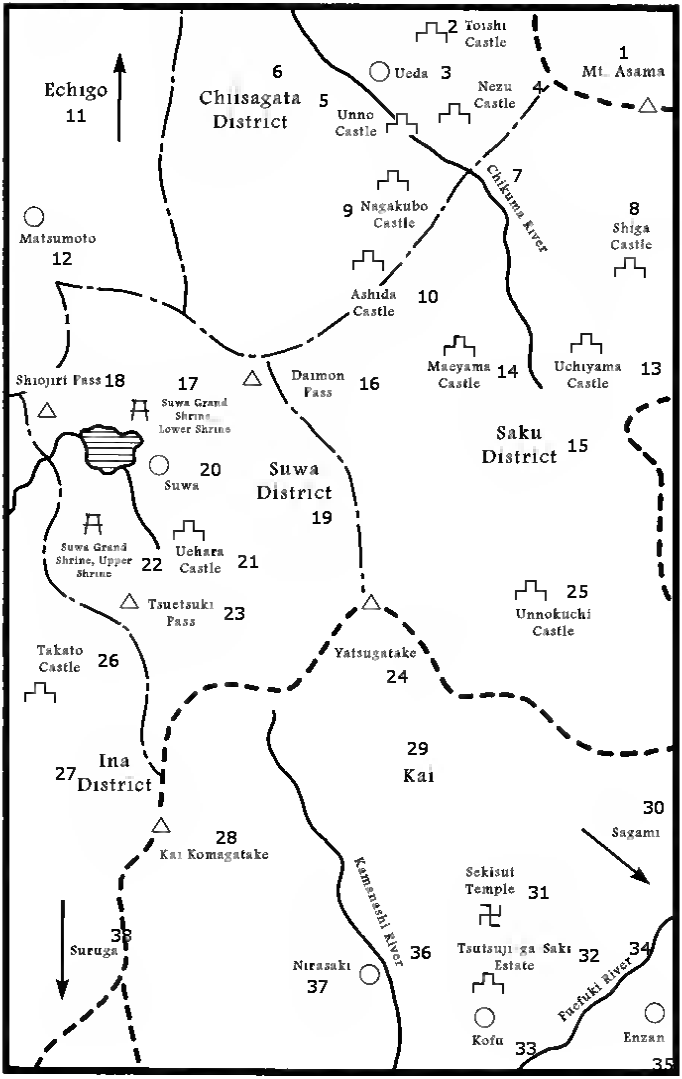
On November 3, Daiei year 1 (1521), Takeda Shingen was born in the castle of Sekisui Temple, on the Mt. Yogai behind Tsutsuji-ga-Saki Mansion in Kofu.

At the time, Nobutora was suffering the invasion of the Suruga Army, so his pregnant wife escaped danger to Sekisui Temple Castle, and gave birth in Sekisui Temple. It is said that his vigorous first cry encouraged the Takeda army, who purged the enemy from their domain.

GENEALOGY OF THE TAKEDA CLAN OF KAI


EMPEROR SEIWA
PRINCE SADAZUMI
MINAMOTO TSUNEMOTO
MITSU-NAKA
YORI-NOBU
YORI-YOSHI
YOSHIMITSU (SHINRA SABURO)
YOSHIKIYO (HITACHI TAKEDA CLAN)
KIYOMITSU (HENMI CLAN)
NOBUYOSHI (FOUNDER OF THE KAI TAKEDA CLAN)
NOBU-MITSU
NOBU-MASA
NOBU-TOKI
TOKIT-SUNA
NOBU-MUNE
NOBU-TAKE
NOBU-NARI
NOBU-HARU
NOBU-MITSU
NOBUMOTO
NOBU-SHIGE
NOBU-MORI
NOBU-MASA
NOBU-TSUNA
NOBU-TORA
NOBU-TORA
HARUNOBU (TOKUEIKEN SHINGEN, HIGH PRIEST OF HOSHO TEMPLE, LOWER JUNIOR FOURTH RANK MASTER OF THE PALACE TABLE
GUARDIAN OF SHINANO—PASSED AWAY ON APRIL 12, GENKI YEAR 4, ENSHRINED IN ERIN TEMPLE, AGE 53)
NOBUSHIGE (SAMANOSUKE, SLAIN IN BATTLE AT KAWANAKAJIMA, SEPTEMBER 10 EIROKU YEAR 4)
NOBUTOMO (LORD OF UENO, DIED YOUNG), NOBUKADO (SECOND ASSISTANT MINISTER OF JUSTICE, SHOYOKEN NOBUTSUNA, DIED MARCH TENSHO YEAR 10)
NOBUKORE (ADOPTED BY MATSUO NOBUKATA, SECOND ASSISTANT MINISTER OF TAXATION, GENJURO, DIED IN GENKI YEAR 2)
MUNETOMO (PRIEST OF ERIN TEMPLE)
NOBUZANE (KAWAKUFO HYOGONOSUKE, DIED IN BATTLE IN NAGASHINO IN MAY OF TENSHO YEAR 3)
NOBUTATSU (ICHIJO UEMONDAYU, DIED MARCH OF TENSHO YEAR 10)
NOBUTOMO (LORD OF UENO), DAUGHTERS (WIFE OF IMAGAWA YOSHIMOTO, WIFE OF OI JIRO, WIFE OF ANAYAMA NOBUTOMO, WIFE OF SHIMOJO NOBUUJI, WIFE OF SUWA YORISHIGE, WIFE OF NEZU KAMDKRA, WIFE OF THE SHINANO UKANO CLAN, WIFE OF KIKUTEI HAKUSUE)
HARUNOBU
YOSHINOBU (TARO, MOTHER WAS THE DAUGHTER OF MINISTER OF THE LEFT SANJO KINYORI, DIED AT AGE 30 IN OCTOBER EIROKU YEAR 10)
RYUHO
KENRYO DOKAI (NOBUMICHI)
NOBU-MASA
NOBU-OKI
(OMIT-TED)
NOBU-YASU
MASANOBU
NOBUYUKI (DIED AT THE AGE OF TEN),
KATSU YORI
(SHIRO, MOTHER WAS THE DAUGHTER OF SUWA YORISHIGE, DIED MARCH OF TENSHO YEAR 10, AGE 37),
NOBUKATSU (MOTHER OF THE ODA CLAN, DIED MARCH TENSHO YEAR 10 AGE 16)
MORINOBU (NISHINA GORO, MOTHER OF THE ARURAKAWA CLAN, DIED IN BATTLE AT TAKATO TEMPLE IN MARCH OF TENSHO YEAR 10, AGE 26)
NOBUSADA (KATSURAYAMA JURO, DIED MARCH OF TENSHO YEAR 10)
NOBUKIYO (OKATSU, MOTHER OF THE NEZU CLAN, LATER SERVED THE UESUGI),
DAUGHTERS (WIFE OF HOJO UJIMASA, WIFE OF ANAYAMA BAISETSU, WIFE OF KISO YOSHIMASA, LADY NITACHI MATSU WIFE OF UESUGI KAGEKATSU)

MAP OF LOCATIONS RELEVANT TO THIS VOLUME



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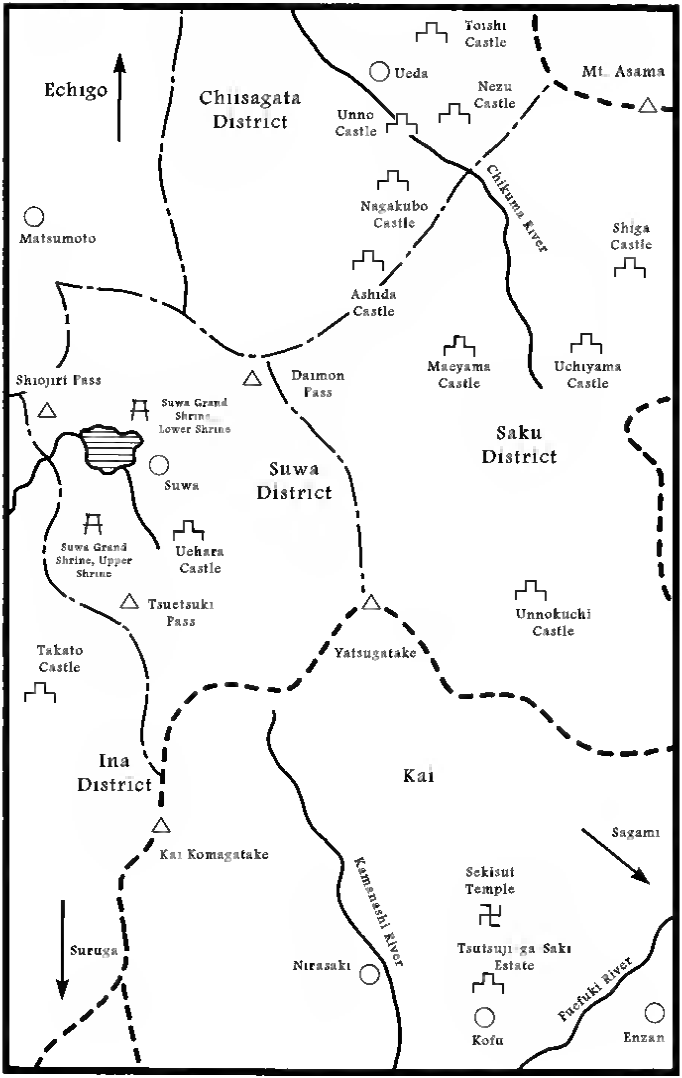

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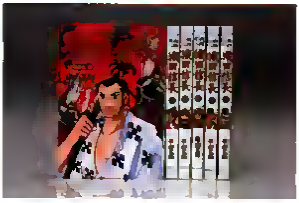

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CHAPTER 9